A Guide to the Study of Heraldry

« Gardons-nous de mêler le douteux au certain, et le chimérique avec le vrai."

Voltaire, Essai sur les Mœurs.

A Guide to the Study of Heraldry

BY J. A. MONTAGU, B. A.



WILLIAM PICKERING LONDON MDCCCXL

CHISWICK :—C. WHITTINGHAM.



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WITHIN the last twenty years there have been published some of the very best works that have ever appeared, connected with the subject of Heraldry, and its kindred science genealogy. Rolls of arms of undoubted authenticity, accompanied by notes devoid of those flights of imagination with which the old annotators were wont to lard their works upon these subjects; treatises upon particular branches of the science, and many excellent works on the peerage and different ranks, and some genealogies of the best kind have appeared. From this we might be led to believe that a revival of the ancient taste in these matters had taken place, yet I am inclined to think that this supply, so good too of its kind, falls far short of that upon most other subjects, which the increased demand for information has created. Yet it were a pity that a science so cherished by our forefathers, and so useful to the historian, the architect, and the lawyer, should be so neglected, and I might even say despised, in this utilitarian age. That it does not merit this utter contempt will surely appear from the number of talented men

who have devoted themselves to, and have written upon the subject. Truly enough does the Chevalier de Courcelles remark:—"Il n'y a peut-être pas de science en apparence plus frivole, et sur laquelle on ait tant et si gravement écrit, que celle du Blazon."

That it has had a great influence upon the manners and customs of the people amongst whom it has been in use, will hardly be denied by those who are acquainted with the histories of France and England. It was a part of the great feudal system of Europe, than which, for the time in which it was instituted, nothing could be more beautiful. Heraldry was the outward sign of that spirit of chivalry whose humanizing influence conduced so rapidly to the extinction of the last traces of barbarism, and which had such a beneficial effect upon the warfare of the time. Amongst our ancestors, little given to study of any kind, a knowledge of heraldry was considered indispensable. It was the index to a lengthened chronicle of doughty deeds. The escutcheon of a Mortimer or a Bohun was to their eyes, as the blast of a trumpet to their ears; stirring them up to deeds of chevisance and fame. If then the good deeds of our ancestors, both in war and peace (of which heraldry is in many instances the record) are still to hold an honoured place in our remembrance, then ought we not to contemn a science which they honoured, and considered of so much importance. [See Appendix A.]

When the worthy possessor of some fine old manor sees a tree which was planted in the time, and by the hand perhaps, of the founder of his house and name, and which had grown with the growth, and flourished with the prosperity of his family; when

he sees this tree now but feebly vegetating and shattered in constitution, yet still beautiful in its old age, and reverend in its antiquity, will he not fence it about, bind up its shattered trunk, and relieve with props the weight of its pendent limbs, and perhaps with fostering care, rear up around it some scions of its stock, to shelter it in its still older age from the rude attacks of winter. So should he who honours his house and name cherish and foster the fine old heraldic tree, which was planted and flourished and bore fruit in the good old days that are gone.

My intention here is chiefly to point out to those who may have time and inclination to take up the subject, what authors they may consult with advantage, what authorities for the bearing of arms may be relied upon, and what are the absurdities and errors which they must avoid. It is from the mass of absurdities which have been written upon heraldry that the science has been brought into such disrepute ; for purified of these, heraldry may put forth as strong a claim to rank as a science, as any subject, if classification and system be criteria.

Keeping in view my principal object of being as it were a finger post to heraldry, I shall endeavour, as far as I am able, to give a slight sketch of the origin and progress of the science.

The necessity of distinguishing the individual in the joust, the tournament, and the melée of the battle, was no doubt the origin of the assumption of many particular personal bearings. This custom with regard to heraldic devices, properly so called, and formed according to the principles of the science as it has come down to us, is not of very great antiquity, certainly not older than the Conquest. We have indeed instances of shields painted with figurative designs, being borne by particular individuals in

very early times. I may refer the reader to the Επτα επι Θηβας of Æschylus, where he will find several instances of this kind. In Virgil, Ovid, Xenophon, Euripides also will be found expressions which have given rise to the notion that heraldry is as old as the time of Adam. Indeed a German author, and our Morgan, in his Sphere of Gentry, have not hesitated in giving the arms of Adam himself, together with those of Noah, Joshua, David, and other right noble gentlemen of equal antiquity. Another author, in order to give a stamp of authority to the armorial bearings of some worthies of the tribe of Judah, has not hesitated to blazon them in good Norman French. But none of these are what we properly understand by heraldic bearings; that is, bearings connected with heraldry as a science, and hereditary. There have, however, been a few exceptions to this; of the devices of kingdoms and cities of early times which still remain as the arms of those kingdoms, &c. As instances I may mention the White Horse of Saxony, the S. P. Q. R. of the city of Rome[1], and the bearings of the towns of Nismes, Augsberg, and Sulmo; but these devices, which are found on coins and medals, were never there borne upon a shield, and were only retained as the heraldic bearings of those towns after the introduction of heraldry[2].

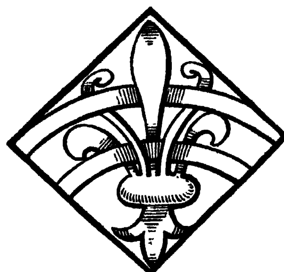
The fleur-de-lys of France too is certainly of great antiquity,

[1] Senatus Populusque Romanus.

[2] The arms of Nismes are "Un palmier auquel est lié un crocodile, avec les lettres 'Col. Nem.'" (pro Colonia Nemausensis). Of Augsberg, "Une pomme de pin sur un chapiteau de colonne." Of Sulmo, or Sulmone, in Italy, the letters S. M. P. E. from the first four words of the lines of Ovid:—

Sulmo mihi patria est gelidis uberrimus undis
Millia qui novies distat ab urbe, decim.

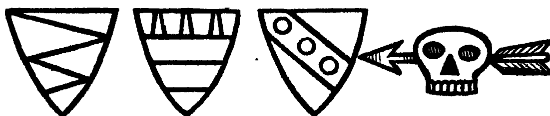
but not used as an heraldic bearing before the time of Louis the Seventh[3]. I must, however, be permitted to doubt the fact of its having been the direct gift of Heaven, as some authors have stated. A gift from such a quarter would hardly have been suffered to experience the treatment it has undergone of late years. In a pedestrian tour in search of heraldry, through part of Normandy, undertaken a few years ago, I could find but few remains of heraldry which had withstood the shock of the two revolutions. Wherever a time-honoured relic lay within the reach of destruction it had been defaced. High on a buttress or on the dripstone of an arch might occasionally be seen the worn insignia of some by-gone name or proud abbey, whose walls are now in ruins, and here and there on the walls of a dismantled castle might be traced the faded colouring of what had once been the splendid decorations of its hospitable halls; rich in the escutcheons of many a princely fief, and the bearings of many a name renowned in history and song[4].


Tile from Caen.

Although I have above, according to general opinion, called the device of France the lily, yet it is a question by no means

[3] See "Traité des Armes de France," par M. de St. Marthe, and "Traité des Monnaies," par M. le Blanc. Louis Seventh born 1120, died 1180.

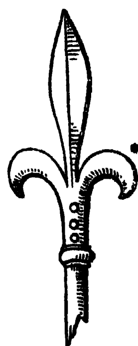
[4] On the walls of a dungeon of the chateau of Tankarville, on the Seine, these arms are rudely carved.



finally agreed upon by antiquarians. There have been many learned and able controversies and disquisitions upon the subject; some authors maintaining that it is the water-lily, others the iris, others again that it is a lance or partisan head. The latter party are certainly borne out in their opinion by the arms of Canteloup, which are blazoned by the compiler of a roll of arms as early as Edward the Second, as "flures de or, od testes de lupars yssauns," and are found painted and sculptured on tombs, &c.[5] as entering in at the mouth and passing out at the top of the head.



Iris.



Lancehead.

But after all, the iris is most probably the type of the bearing in the coat of France. The arguments of M. de Menestrier in favour of the iris are so strong as almost to set this question at rest[6]. A work on the fleur de lys lately (1837) appeared in France, by M. Rey, in two vols. 8vo.



Notwithstanding the number of tombs which exist of persons of noble blood who died before A. D. 1000, there is not an instance known of one with an heraldic bearing. The earliest instance which Le Père Menestrier was able to discover, after a careful and lengthened research through France, Italy, Germany,

[5] See Hereford Cathedral; also a tile in Gloucester Cathedral.

[6] "Le véritable Art du Blason."

and Flanders, was that upon the monumental effigy of a Count of Wasserburg, in the church of St. Emeran at Ratisbon. He is represented completely armed, with a surcoat, and at his side a plain shield of his arms, viz. Parti per fess argent and sable a lion counterchanged. It has an inscription bearing the date 1010. Yet even here "there is good reason to believe," says M. de Menestrier, "that this tomb was restored some time after his death by the monks of the abbey which he had endowed."

Two early instances of arms on tombs are given in Montfaucon's Monuments. They are those of Helie Comte du Maine, in the church of St. Pierre de la Couture du Mans. The effigy bears on his shield a cross fleurdelisée. He died 1109. And, Geoffroi le Bel Comte du Maine, son of Fulke Comte d'Anjou et du Maine. The figure has a very large shield, charged with six lions. He died in 1150. The difference in the arms of these two persons, Helie and Geoffroi, argues nothing against hereditary bearing, as they were not of the same family.

On coins and seals, particularly the latter, we might naturally look for some of the earliest preserved instances of heraldry; but with the exception of the four cases which follow, from the authority of M. de Courcelles, I know of none previous to the twelfth century. About which time also we hear of the "ecu" (from scutum), because they began to put arms on the reverse of the coins[7]. M. de Courcelles would refer the antiquity of heraldry to as far back as 938, but does not give a single authority before the eleventh century. Neither does he state where the documents are deposited, to which are attached the

[7] The old game of "cross and pile" (our modern heads and tails) derived its name from the cross, and wedgelike shape of the shield upon some coins.

very early seals he notices. M. de Courcelles says:—" We have the marriage contract of Sanches, Infant of Castile, with Guillemine, daughter of Centule Gaston, Viscount of Bearn, in the year 1038 of the Spanish era (1000 J. C.), to the foot of which seven seals were attached, two of which are preserved entire. The first represents a shield, upon which is seen a greyhound; the second is a shield divided by horizontal bars. M. de Villaret, who sent us the description of these seals, is of opinion that in the second we may certainly recognise the figures employed in modern blazon." M. de Courcelles adds, " As much might be said of the first, which may have been the seal of Gracie-Arnaud, Count of Aure and Magnoac, who lived at the time, and whose descendants have always borne a greyhound in their arms."

The third instance of M. de Courcelles is this:—" Two seals of Adelbert, Duke and Marquis of Lorraine, attached to two charters of the years 1030, 1037, of the vulgar era, represent a shield charged with an eagle, the wings closed," (un aigle au vol abaissé.

The other is " An instrument of Raymond de St. Gilles, dated 1088, is sealed with a cross voided, pommettée, such as the Counts of Toulouse have always borne. The historian of Languedoc thought this the most ancient monument of heraldry." The Raymond here cited by M. de Courcelles was the first who took the name of St. Gilles. In a deed of gift to the abbey of St. André d'Avignon, of the date given above, he was styled Duke of Narbonne, Count of Toulouse, &c. This is probably the instrument to which M. de Courcelles alludes. Of his great grandson, Raymond the sixth, or, as some say, the seventh Count of Toulouse, there is a very large seal mentioned by

Justel in his History of Auvergne, attached to a deed dated 1208. It is four inches in diameter, and represents the Count in a long robe, seated between a castle and a tower, with a naked sword upon his knee, on either side of his head a crescent and a star of eight rays. The legend, S. Raimondi ducis Na . . . . . mitis Tolosæ; on the counter-seal he is on horseback, holding in his right hand a sword elevated, and on his left arm a shield, with the cross voided of Toulouse, what remains of the legend . . . . . comitis Tolosæ . . . . . archionis Provincie.

These instances of M. de Courcelles are no doubt given from sufficient authority, and I do not question their correctness; but it is to be regretted that he has not given a more detailed and satisfactory account of them, as they are of much importance in an inquiry into the origin of armorial bearings, upon which subject he is writing.

The above are not the only seals noticed by M. de Courcelles, but it is needless to give the rest, as they are all of the twelfth century, and are found in other authorities, most of them having been either in the cabinet of M. de Clairambaut or in the collection of M. de Gaignieres.

Other observations made by M. de Courcelles in his Essay on the Origin of Arms, are either incorrect, or from the loose manner in which they are stated prove nothing. In refuting the objection made against the antiquity of arms from the following verses of the Roman de Rou:—

Et tuit orent fait convenance
Que Norman autre cogneust
Que Norman autre ne ferist
Ne François, autre n'occist—

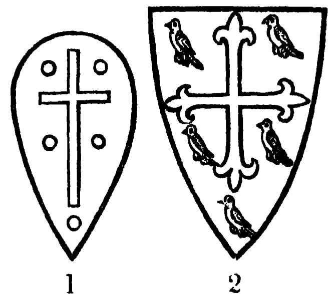
he says, "Yet we do not mean to affirm that such was the case," (*i. e.* that the Normans and Saxons had banners and shields of arms), "we will admit even that the Normans had neither shields nor banners with armorial bearings in 1066 That does not negative the antiquity of armorial seals and of heraldry as a system, known in the north, soon after 938." Here he gives us a bare statement that heraldry was known as early as 938, without deducing a single authority for an assertion so generally discredited and denied.

Farther on, alluding to those who have confounded heraldry with the hieroglyphics engraved upon ancient bucklers, he says, "They have not paid attention to the difference which exists between these fanciful marks, and the hatched lines (hachures) observed on seals and shields for eight centuries, to distinguish the metals and colours in terms exclusively appropriated to the heraldic art." Now the manner of distinguishing the colours, &c. in arms by lines, as used in engraving and tricking, has always been supposed to have been the invention of Père Silvester de Petra Sancta, who wrote on heraldry in 1638. I have noticed this Essay of M. de Courcelles at greater length than I otherwise should, from its being attached to a voluminous and laborious work on French genealogy, and calculated from its position and apparent authority to mislead.

But to resume, I have stated that up to the time of the Conquest there were very few instances of the bearing of coat armour. The Bayeux tapestry[8], which is generally allowed to have been a work very nearly contemporary with that event, contains nothing conclusive on the point. There are certainly

[8] In Bayeux the tapestry goes by the name of the "Toile de St. Jean."

some rude designs on the faces of the shields borne by prominent figures in the tapestry; but they in no respect bear any resemblance to the bearings which were used by the immediate descendants of the persons who held a conspicuous position in the history of those times. An exception to this sweeping clause may perhaps be made with respect to the design upon one of the shields, which resembles somewhat the escarbuncle of the house of Anjou. And the advocates for the earlier origin of heraldry might, in a design frequently occurring on the shields, find an instance of the coat of Edward the Confessor.



1 *From the Bayeux tapestry.*
2 *Arms ascribed to Edward the Confessor.*

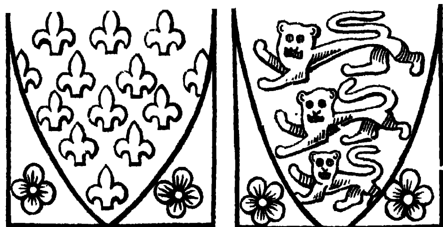
Now it can hardly be supposed that if heraldry had at this time been reduced to any thing like a science, it would have been overlooked by a person holding the rank and station of the wife of the Conqueror, to whom and her maidens the work is attributed.

Again, those who are for maintaining the very early existence of heraldry, bring forward the "Tabula Eliensis[9]," which contains the names and arms of forty knights who were quartered upon the monks of Ely by William the Conqueror. But there is no proof that this work is entitled to so early a date; indeed the shape of the helmets would bring it down to the sixteenth century.

Again, the tiles which form part of the floor of a chamber called the "Great Guard Chamber," in the Abbaye aux Hommes

9 See MS. of the Rev. William Cole in the Brit. Mus. vol. xxxi, and Gentleman's Mag. for 1779, for an account of this tablet.

at Caen, are brought forward as instances of very early coats of arms; and such they certainly would be, if we suppose them to have been laid down at the time of the foundation of the abbey in 1064. But for this we have no authority, although they are doubtless of very high antiquity. There are about twenty different coats, and these are repeated. They are only of two colours, brown and yellow. The coats themselves suggest to us some reasons for not allowing them the same antiquity as the abbey, which Mr. Henniker[10] is so desirous should be accorded to them. From the small number of coats it is probable that they were the arms of persons of rank who were benefactors to the abbey. Amongst them we find one semé of fleur-de-lys, probably the arms of France, which I have before stated does not appear to have existed prior to 1120. Another has three leopards passant; if we suppose this to be the arms of England, it must, according to the general opinion, have been after the marriage of Henry the Second with Eleanor of Aquitaine; for then Henry incorporated the single leopard of Aquitaine with his own two; and the three leopards are found on the seals of his sons Richard the First and John. Moreover we find amongst these tiles one having a quartered coat upon it. Now the custom of quartering arms is certainly not older than the end of the thirteenth century. Some of the earliest instances of quartered coats of good authority are:—The arms of Eleanor, wife of Edward the First, on her



[10] In a paper read before the Soc. Antiq. Feb. 7, 1788.

tomb in Westminster Abbey, and on the crosses erected to her memory at Waltham, &c., they are quarterly Castile and Leon. A seal of Isabel, Queen of Edward the Second. And the seal of Edward the Third, after he took the arms of France[11] in right of his mother[12]. The first English subject who used a quartered coat, is said to have been John de Hastings, second Earl of Pembroke, A. D. 1348, who bore the arms of his maternal ancestor, Isabel de Valence, quartered with his own.

It is true the Roll of Arms of Edward the Second[13] assigns to Sir Simon de Montacute two coats quarterly ; which two coats that person certainly made use of (though not quarterly), as is evident from his seal attached to the barons' letter to Pope Boniface the Eighth, A. D. 1301. It was therefore perhaps only an idea of the compiler, to show that this Simon de Montacute was entitled to those coats.



There are also two shields represented on the tiles[14], which, besides the principal bearing, have a bend or bendlet over all. Now as the bend or bendlet, when borne over other charges, was generally a *difference*, that is, a mark to distinguish a younger branch, they seem to belong to a period posterior to the first assumption of heraldic bearings.

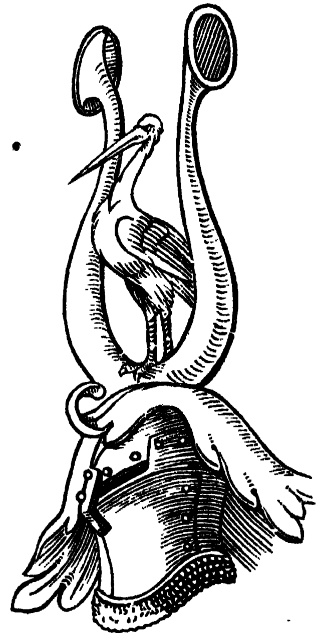
[11] Barnes, in his History of Edward the Third, p. 155, tells us that they were first borne with the arms of England in the first and fourth quarters. There is a good paper on the Quartering of Arms in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xcvi.

[12] Isabel, daughter of Philip the Fourth of France, and heir to her brothers Charles the Fourth, Philip the Fifth, and Louis the Tenth.

[13] In Mus. Brit. Cott. MSS. Calig. A. XVIII.

[14] There are twenty of these tiles preserved in a gilt frame in the cloisters of the Benedictine abbey at Caen. See Gent's. Mag. vol. lix. p. 212; vol. lx. p. 710.

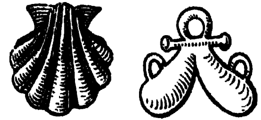
I conceive therefore that as yet, that is down to the time of the Conquest, we have no proof of heraldic bearings having become of general use, still less that heraldry had become a science. There is every probability that heraldry was first known in the German tournaments, which were so frequent in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The word 'blazon' is from the German word 'blasen,' signifying 'to blow a horn[15].' On the entrance of any one into the lists, the heralds, after they had satisfied themselves that he was of pure descent, sounded their horns, to give notice to the marshals, and then blazoned forth their arms; that is, declared the bearing of the individual who presented himself. The vast number of crests, of which the horn forms a part, which are to be found in German heraldry, bears evident allusion to this custom. Yet granting to Germany the origin of heraldry, to France is due the honour of having reduced it to a science; nearly every nation that has had any thing to do with heraldry has made use of her system. Next to the French, those who have understood the science best, and have cultivated it with most attention, have been the Germans, English, and Scotch; and in degree in the order in which I have put them. In the reign of the second William, there is every reason to believe that heraldic



Crest of Zolrayer.

[15] Spener would derive this word from blaszc or blasse, an old German word, signifying 'a mark.' See Ch. Max. Spener's "Alte wahre Heroldskunst, s. 18."

distinctions began by degrees to be introduced. The return of some who had been engaged in the crusade of 1097 would favour its introduction, as there the necessity of something of the kind would have conduced to its adoption by many. Indeed the frequency of such bearings as the cross, escallop, water-bouget, &c. in our earliest heraldry, will rather incline us to believe that such was the case. There is little doubt but that after this the custom increased rapidly, for in the time of Richard the First heraldry had become hereditary; the sons bearing the arms of the father, with some difference; the eldest adding (during the father's lifetime) the label, and the other sons distinguishing themselves either by some additional charges, or by reversing, or by altering the colours. In the next reign but one, if not as early as this, the heralds had also, it would appear, fixed upon certain terms and rules, according to which existing arms should be described, and those which might hereafter be assumed or granted be regulated. This seems pretty certain from the existence of a MS. Roll of Arms[16] of the time of Henry the Third (and which from its internal evidence was clearly compiled at the time to which it is referred), containing the description in terms of blazon of about two hundred and twenty coats; and these bearings are described in accordance with certain fixed rules, and little differing from the manner in which the same coats are now blazoned.



See Appendix B.

In the succeeding reigns the science rapidly increased in

[16] In the College of Arms, in a volume entitled "Miscellanea Curiosa," marked L. 14.

importance and use. The king, as also many of the chief nobility, began to have heralds attached to their households. These officers often having the name of some cognisance or badge of the family or person to whom they belonged, as "Faucon," a herald of Edward the Third, the falcon being a favourite badge of that monarch; "Blanch-Sanglier" of Richard the Third, the white boar being one of his badges. Such also were the "Egle-Vert," pursuivant to Richard Nevil, Earl of Salisbury[17], and "Rouge-Dragon" and "Portcullis" of Henry the Seventh and Henry the Eighth. These heralds in the exercise of their office, in attending tournaments and other pageantries, would acquire some considerable knowledge of heraldry and genealogy, and would probably make collections of the arms of persons who assembled together on particular occasions, or who belonged to particular counties or districts. Now of such collections there are a great many still in existence, and they are undoubtedly some of the best authorities we can have for the arms of the persons who lived at the time such collections were made. It must be understood that I speak only of the arms either illuminated or described in terms of blazon; we are not obliged to give credence to all the fables and absurdities which they give us of the manner in which the arms were acquired. For these heralds were at first frequently either old servants or soldiers, whose services were thus rewarded, but who did not possess much knowledge of history or of literature of any kind.

Heraldry now also came much in use as an architectural

[17] Derived from the arms of Monthermer—or, an eagle displayed vert—through the Montagus Earls of Salisbury.

decoration, particularly in buildings of an ecclesiastical nature; and in no way perhaps does heraldry please the eye so much as when its gorgeousness contrasts with the gray tracery of Gothic architecture, or when its admirably contrasted tints enrich the light which streams through the ancient casement.

Such coats will always be excellent authorities for the bearings of individuals, when other circumstances are sufficiently strong to identify the persons with the coats. It is almost unnecessary to point out instances of architectural heraldry, as they occur in most parts of Europe; but I may mention, as rich examples in England, the cloisters of Canterbury Cathedral[18], and the excellent restoration of the Cathedral itself; King's College Chapel, Cambridge, and on the tombs in Westminster Abbey; and, I might add, most of our old cathedrals.

Arms in stained glass windows is another application of heraldry, which has always a splendid effect, and may be generally taken as good authority for the right bearing, when, as I have before said, they can be identified with the person.

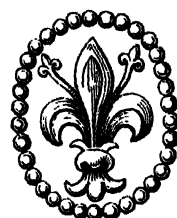


The arms of Sir John Peché, in a window in the chapel at Lullingstone, showing the proper pronunciation of his name. This cut is engraved in Stothard's Monumental Effigies; and will be found also in a volume of the MSS. of the Rev. W. Cole, in the Brit. Mus.

But there is another way in which heraldry was brought into use, and one of the most useful and beautiful of its applications;

[18] Heraldic Notices of Canterbury Cathedral. Willement. 4to. 1827.

I allude to seals. There are instances of arms on seals as early as the eleventh century, if we can rely upon Uredius[19], who gives us a seal of Robert le Frison, Earl of Flanders, attached to a deed dated 1072[20]. The Earl is represented on horseback, and his shield has a lion upon it. A seal of Louis le Jeune of France is known, which has a single fleur-de-lys upon it. Many of these seals were very large, and as the arts advanced became of very elaborate design, generally of a Gothic architectural character, and having a legend round the whole of the name and title of the owner. A great number of such seals, of an early date, are still extant, and form the *very best* authority that can be had for heraldic bearings, as they come to us with the full authority of the persons themselves: and not of heraldic bearings only, they are also of indisputable authority on dress, architecture, and on the form of the letters of three several periods.



Seal of Louis the Seventh.

Heraldry appears to have attained its greatest lustre in the reigns of Edward the Third and Richard the Second. The frequent tournaments, rendered so much in vogue by the example set by the doughty Edward and his gallant sons, the institution of the Order of the Garter, and the crowd of noble foreigners who resorted to the court of Edward, all contributed to bring forth heraldry in all its splendour.

In the reign of Richard the Third, an important event took place connected with heraldry. This monarch appears to have

19 Expositio in Sigilla Comitum Flandriæ.

20 The authenticity of the instrument to which this seal is attached, is not allowed by Mabillon and others.

been favourable to the culture of heraldry; for in the very first year of his reign he granted a charter of incorporation to his officers of arms, by the name of the College of Heralds[21], and gave them many privileges[22]. By the same charter he ceded to them a mansion called Pulteney's Inn[23], or Cold-Harbore, "to the use of the twelve principal heralds." They were eventually obliged to quit this abode, and retired to Our Lady of Roncesval, near Charing Cross. Edward the Sixth had intended to have granted them another house called Derby Place, then occupied by Sir Richard Sackville; to this effect, by a deed dated Nov. 24, 1552, the King conveyed to them some possessions, called Leonard's Lands, in Lancashire; but these good intentions were frustrated by his death; they were nevertheless, through the interventions of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal, fulfilled by Queen Mary, who, by a deed dated July 18, 1554, granted them Derby House. This house was destroyed by fire in the time of Charles the Second, but rebuilt after a design by Sir Christopher Wren, and is the present residence of the officers of arms. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the college got into much confusion from dissensions amongst its members, and these disputes appear to have continued during the greater part of the next two reigns.

I shall not enter upon the subject of the heralds' duties, their

[21] Charles the Sixth had incorporated the heralds in France in 1406; Frederic the First of Prussia founded a herald's college in 1707; and in the Netherlands there was a "Chambre de l'Office d'Armes" in 1628.

[22] This charter may be seen in Rymer's Fœdera, ol. xii. p. 215.

[23] So called from having been built by Sir John Pulteney, Lord Mayor of London, time of Edward tue Third.

privileges, emoluments, &c.; those who seek for further information upon the subject, I would refer to Mark Noble's "History of the College of Arms," where they will find notices of all the heralds, from the time of their incorporation to the reign of George the Third[24]. In recommending, however, Mark Noble's work, I must caution the reader against his partiality; his names and dates may be correct, but the character of some of the heralds he has strangely vilified. His abuse of Ralph Brook was not altogether merited; Brook was coarse in his language, it is true, but a most learned and acute genealogist and herald. His famous literary warfare with Camden has been of essential service to the genealogist. In Edmondson's "Complete Body of Heraldry," and Dallaway's "Inquiry into the Origin of Heraldry," will also be found much information relative to heralds and their duties. I must not, however, omit some mention of one of the heralds' duties, as it is so immediately connected with the state of heraldry. I allude to the visitations. They were undertaken every twenty or thirty years, under a royal commission, for the purpose of registering and confirming the pedigrees and arms of the gentry throughout England. The earliest on record is, Visitatio facta per Marischallum de Norry ult. ann. R. Henrici 4ti 1412[25]; but this is not supposed to have been under a royal commission. The first under such royal commission was that by Thomas Benoilt, Clarenceux, in 1528. These Visitations, which were continued at intervals until the year 1686, were not merely matters of form and registration of

[24] Lansdowne MS. 80 in Mus. Brit. has a "Catalogue of all the Officers of Arms, &c. down to the year 1595, collected by Thom. Lant, Portcullis."

[25] This is among the Harl. MSS. in Mus. Brit.

whatever genealogies and arms might be presented to the heralds, but in most cases there was a careful inquiry into the right of using such bearings, and proof required of the pedigrees so presented; and in many instances those who had illegally assumed arms, or had forged pedigrees, were disclaimed openly in the market place as ignoble[26]. To those who are fond of genealogical research, Sir H. Nicolas's "Catalogue of the Heralds' Visitations in the British Museum," will be found exceedingly useful. It contains also many references to other manuscripts on genealogy and heraldry preserved in that institution.

The reigns of Henry the Eighth[27] and Elizabeth were no less celebrated than those of Edward the Third and Richard the Second for pomp and pageantry and heraldic display; but heraldry no longer possessed that simplicity and purity which had distinguished it in the preceding reigns. The arms that were granted in the time of Elizabeth were many of them of a complicated nature; and they were now too frequently granted either through carelessness or for pecuniary reasons, to unworthy persons. This is the more to be condemned, as the emoluments of the heralds were at this time very great, in consequence of the love of pageantry and display evinced by the monarchs above mentioned. Another cause which tended to bring heraldry into disrepute arose from a number of adventurers who went about the country, falsely calling themselves heralds, and made money

[26] In a copy of a Visitation of Wiltshire, in 1623, I find the names of no less than fifty-four persons so disclaimed at Salisbury, as ignobiles. Pen. Auc.

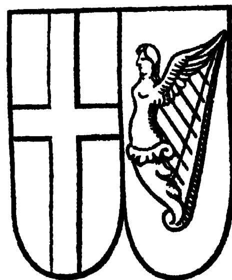
[27] In this reign it became usual to grant arms to those prelates who did not possess them by descent; to corporate bodies, and to commercial companies.

by granting arms and manufacturing pedigrees. A memorable instance of this kind of "notable dealers in arms and makers of false pedigrees" was one W. Dawkins; he was apprehended by order of the Earl Marshal. The names of nearly one hundred families were mentioned, for whom he had compiled spurious pedigrees. He had been twice before apprehended for the same offence; at one time being punished by the loss of an ear, and the other by imprisonment.

The vast number of manuscripts of heraldry still in existence, which were compiled about this time, evince the industry of at least some of the heralds, notwithstanding their internal dissensions.

Little more need be said; nothing of any moment affected the science of heraldry under the houses of Stuart and Hanover, and it gradually declined in estimation. With the discontinuance of the tournament and the joust, and the altered system of warfare, heraldry lost a great part of its consequence. None of our kings since James the Second ever kept up much state; and the inroad of a number of persons who could afford to purchase arms, lessened, in a great measure, the estimation in which heraldic distinctions were held.

It is a little curious, that during the usurpation of Cromwell the heraldic body still held its place, when most institutions of a similar nature fell to the ground. We find Oliver with his heralds occasionally about him, and as fond of magnificence as any legitimate crowned head; in proof of this, look at his reception of the Dutch ambas-



Arms of the Protectorate.

sadors, and his solemnization of the funerals of his mother and daughter. Cromwell caused the arms of the Protectorate to be substituted for those of the exiled Stuarts; and for his own coat he bore the arms of Cromwell as an escutcheon of pretence over a modification of the arms of the Protectorate.

IT is now necessary that I should mention the sources from which my readers may gather information upon the subject in question; and also that I should so guide their steps in their search for it, as to lead them through the richest fields, and those which are the freest from weeds, at the same time without wearying them with the length of the way. Although I feel with Dallaway, that "to enliven a catalogue is one of those literary felicities to which I do not expect to attain," yet it is a necessary task, and may prove, perhaps, the most useful part of this short essay.

I will at once, then, suppose the reader perfectly ignorant of heraldry, and put into his hands works which will enable him to convert the jargon of the science into the illuminated coat. I do not think I can offer him better assistance than he will find in such small works as Clark's "Introduction to Heraldry," or better still (if he can procure it), Claude Menestrier's "Véritable Art du Blazon," published at Lyons in 1671. I have been particular here in the date, as there are three works by Menestrier, under the general title of "Le Véritable Art du Blazon;" one on the Origin of Arms, another on the Method of Blazoning (that above mentioned), and a third on the Usage of Arms. I may take this opportunity of stating, that all Menestrier's works, of which there are a great number, will be found

of the very best service. Dictionaries of heraldic terms, and their meanings, are easily to be had; such are found in Edmondson's "Complete Body of Heraldry," and Guillim's "Display of Heraldry." Gelliot's "Indice Armorial" is also a useful work. I might here almost conclude my notice of heraldic books, by at once referring the reader to Moule's "Bibliotheca Heraldica," a work, though apparently a mere catalogue of books, of much labour, and great and careful research. It gives the titles in full of nearly every work that has been printed in England connected with heraldry, genealogy, coronations, &c. with a detailed account of the contents of each, and remarks by which one may judge of their merits. More than eight hundred books are mentioned, beginning with a work relating to the Order of the Garter, printed in the year 1469, and supposed to be Caxton's second attempt at printing; and ending with Willement's "Regal Heraldry," published in 1821. At the end there is a list of the Heralds' Visitations[28], with references to the principal manuscripts connected with the genealogies, &c. of the several counties, contained in private collections. The notices of foreign genealogies are very numerous[29], and any one who can meet with a tenth part of those mentioned may consider himself exceedingly fortunate. There is also a list of some foreign systems of heraldry, but this part of the work is incomplete; to supply in part this defect, I may mention, among German authors, George Philip Harsdorfer, of Nuremberg, who was the first German who wrote on heraldry; Theodore Hopingk,

[28] The dates are occasionally erroneous, but it is almost impossible to fix them with certainty.

[29] The list of foreign genealogies contains about three hundred works.

John Limnaus, and upwards of twenty others. But it is to Philip Jacob Spener, who wrote at the end of the seventeenth century, that the Germans are indebted for their best work on the subject; from his "Insignium Theoria seu Operis Heraldici," most of the other writers have taken their information.

Amongst Italian writers there are, Philibert Campanile, whose work "Dell' Armi," &c. may be consulted; Antonio Stephano Catari, Paul Jovius, Der Graf Marc Ant. Ginani, and some others.

For Spanish authors the reader may refer to Gerhardus Frankenau's "Bibliotheca-Hispanica Historico-Genealogico-Heraldica," which contains the names of seven hundred authors, and titles of one thousand four hundred and ninety works upon these subjects.

In the Netherlands, they have had John Lavens, Thomas de Rouck, and John Christyn.

The Swedes too can name John Ihre and Carl Uggla, as writers upon heraldry.

But what is of most importance to the heraldic student, and that which will alone give interest to the science, and render it of service in the study of history, are good authorities for armorial bearings. For such, one of the most obvious sources (after seals) will be the original note books of the heralds in their visitations. Of these many are, of course, in the College of Arms, and many again scattered about in private collections; these will be for the most part inaccessible. But in the Harleian collection of manuscripts in the British Museum there are upwards of two hundred of these visitations. In referring to them, the little work by Sir H. Nicolas, before mentioned, will

be very serviceable. A vast number of other manuscripts of arms, by such men as Glover, Camden, Vincent, Segar, whose names stamp them with authority, will be found in the Harleian collection; the excellent catalogue to which will be found of easy reference. Amongst the Lansdown, Hargrave, and Cotton manuscripts in the British Museum many heraldic collections also exist. Among these manuscripts there are many of arms from tomb-stones, mural monuments, &c. in various churches throughout England. These are very valuable authorities.

The publication of contemporary Rolls of Arms offers us another source which we may rely upon for correct armorial bearings. Four of these Rolls, or Collections of Arms, were published a few years ago by Sir H. Nicolas, accompanied by some excellent notes and introductory remarks. They consist of:—

First. A roll of arms, which from its internal evidence, ably commented upon by the editor, is undoubtedly of as early a date as Henry the Third, and was probably compiled between the years 1240 and 1245. The existence of the original roll is not known, the present publication being taken from a copy made by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, between 1571 and 1588, whose reputation for correctness is well known. He states it to have been 'an old roll of arms made and written in the reign or time of Henry the Third." It contains the names and arms of about two hundred and twenty of the principal landholders in England at that time. This is the earliest authentic collection of arms known, and is of the highest value to the lover of heraldry. Mr. Dallaway mentions a roll of arms of the time of Henry the Third, of the date 1220, but he is in error as to the date. The

one he refers to is that of Edward the Second, mentioned hereafter.

Second. The Roll of Carlaverock, a poem written it is supposed by Walter of Exeter, a Franciscan friar, detailing the siege of a celebrated fortress in Scotland. It contains the accurate blazon of the arms of one hundred and five knights and bannerets of the time of Edward the First. Of its antiquity, the editor's remarks in the preface, the certificate of the transcriber, Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, and its internal evidence, afford pretty conclusive proof. Once satisfied of its authenticity, this poem affords us one of the best authorities we possess of the bearings of the persons therein mentioned. The correctness of the author is in nearly every instance confirmed by a comparison with the arms given in a nearly contemporary roll in the Cott. Bibl. Mus. Brit. Calig. A. XVIII, and the seals attached to the Barons' celebrated letter to the Pope in 1301.

Third. A roll of arms of the time of Edward the Second, made between the second and seventh years of that king's reign [1308—1314]. The evidences for this date are excellently set forth by the editor in the preface from a careful review of the contents of the roll. This is printed from the original manuscript in the Cottonian Library in the British Museum, marked Caligula A. XVIII. It is divided into counties, and contains the names and arms of about one thousand one hundred and sixty-five persons. The estimation in which this roll has been held, as an authority for arms, will be apparent (when we consider the little general interest the subject has) from this being the fourth time it has been printed. This edition of Sir H. Nicolas will, however, hold the first place, from the very valuable ordinary of the

arms contained in the roll, which is printed with it[30]. A facsimile of the handwriting of the roll is given, which forms no slight addition to the evidence of its antiquity.

Fourth. A roll of arms compiled in the reign of Edward the Third, and apparently between the years 1337 and 1350. It contains the names and arms of nearly six hundred persons who were living at that period, and is written in the form of an ordinary. It is printed from a copy in the College of Arms, transcribed from the original in 1562 by Hugh Cotgrave, then Rouge-Croix Pursuivant, afterwards Richmond Herald. Nearly the same observations apply to this roll as were made upon that of Edward the Second. It may be received as a compilation of the time stated, and forms a valuable addition to our authorities for arms.

Mr. Willement, the author of "Regal Heraldry," published in 1834 a Roll of Arms of the time of Richard the Second, compiled between the years 1392 and 1397. It contains about six hundred names. Mr. Willement also published a few years since a work entitled "Heraldic Notices of Canterbury Cathedral," describing the arms, above eight hundred in number, so profusely scattered over that magnificent building. The numerous notes which accompany the blazon of the arms are of great interest, and evince much genealogical learning and research. By the industry of the same author we are also put in possession of a facsimile of a "Roll of Arms of the spiritual and temporal Peers who sat in Parliament held at Westminster

[30] For this addition the editor tells us he indebted to his friend Joseph Gwilt, Esq.

5 Feb. sixth of Henry VIII. A. D. 1515." It is curious as showing the style of heraldic illumination of the time[31].

The following references to some other rolls of arms may be found useful:—

Mr. Rowe Mores printed the arms in blazon of those who were with Edward the Third at the siege of Calais (most probably either from the copy existing in the Ashmolean Collection, Oxford, or from that in Cott. MS. Tiberius E. 9.)

Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, was very industrious in the collection of old rolls of arms and church notes. Those that follow, collected by him, are in Harl. MS. 6589.

1. A Roll of Arms of the time of Henry the Third, with this note, "This Roll on the other side was copied by the original which Mr. Norry lent me Añ. Dm̃. 1607," signed Nicholas Charles. About six hundred and eighty coats.

2. "A copy of a very ancient role of wrought in coulours in parchement, in the time of King Edward ye First, remaining in the custody of Mr. John Guiliams Portesmouth, who lent me the original," signed Nich. Charles. In number about one hundred and fifty.

3. "Ceux sont les Grantz Seigneurs à banniere que le Roy Edouard Premier puis le conquest avait per divers escose. L'an de son reigne XXVIeme. à la Bataille de Fawkyrke à jour de Sainte Marie Magdalen."

[31] Beautiful specimens of heraldic illuminations are:—"Knights of the Order of the Saint Esprit," Harl. MS. 4037, and "Knights of the Golden Fleece," Harl. MS. 6199.

"This Roll was brought from Paris in France by Andrew Thuet, Cosmographer, and was taken out of the treasury chamber at the palace in Paris aforesaid, where the records are kept, in the year 1576. At Paris the 10 of Sept." signed N. Charles, 1606. One hundred and twelve coats.

In the same volume are :—

Arms of those who were at the tournament at Dunstable, second of Edward the Second.

Those who were at the siege of Calais.

The Roll of Carlaverock, and several other collections of a similar nature.

In the Ashmole MS. No. 731, Oxford, is a Roll entitled "Les Noms et Armes de gentz mortz a Borge-brigge [Boroughbridge] le marsdye et le merkedy après le feste St. Gregoire l'an du regne le Roy Edvard filz du Roy Edvard, quinzieme, et furent counter le roi, Bannerets priz à Borgebrigge et ailleurs en mesme cet temps—et ceux furent treyney et penduz."

Some others will be found in the same collection.

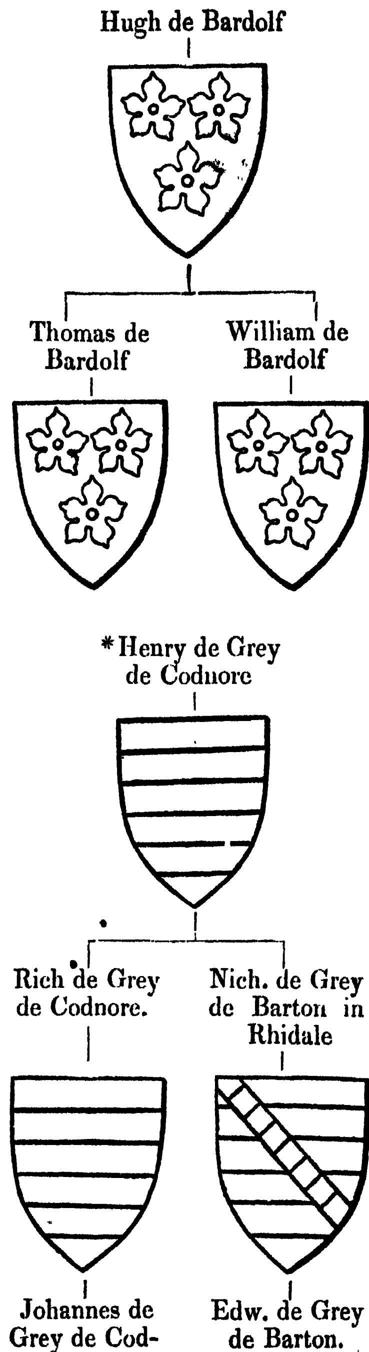
Many ancient Rolls of Arms, such as those above described, no doubt exist in private collections, and it is to be regretted that the possessors do not make them common property by publication.

As instances of the authenticity of some of these Rolls, deduced from internal evidence, I may mention the following :—

In the poem of the Siege of Carlaverock, occurs the name of Hugh Bardolf, whose arms are there given, "Azure three cinquefeules or." This Hugh died in 1304, leaving two sons, Thomas, his heir, and William. Now in the Roll of Arms compiled between 1308 and 1314 [see page 27], no Hugh de

Bardolf occurs; but we find Thomas de Bardolf bearing the same arms as those here given, and a William de Bardolf with the cinquefoils argent; a common method of differencing arms by a younger son[32].

Henry Grey, in the poem, bears barry of six argent and azure. He died in 1308, leaving two sons, Richard and Nicholas. In the Roll of Edward the Second, of seven Greys mentioned, there is not one named Henry; but we find Richard Grey, to whom are ascribed the same arms as those in the poem; and Nicholas Grey the same arms with a bend gobonny or and gules. None of the other Greys in the Roll bear the plain arms without a difference. Immediately following the Richard above mentioned, is the name of John de Grey, bearing the same arms



[32] See Lansdowne MS. 872, in Mus. Brit. " De origine et antiquitate armorum sive insignorum gentilitium eorundemque differentiis et distinctionibus, requisitis R. Glover. Feciales Regii." A most valuable work on the differences of arms. * The annexed descent is taken from it.

as Richard with a label, the usual difference of the eldest son. This Richard had a son named John, who was afterwards one of the founders of the Order of the Garter.

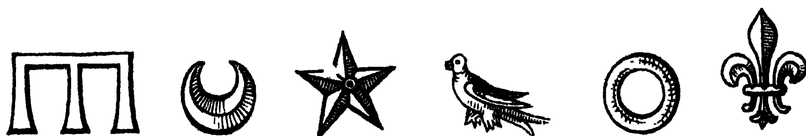
On Differences of Arms, and the Assistance Heraldry affords to Genealogy.

THIS part of the science of heraldry is one of much importance, although it does not appear to have had sufficient attention paid to it. It is not to be expected that when heraldry was in its infancy much attention would be given to the niceties of differences; still we find in some of our earliest collections of arms, indications of a system in practice, which, if not perfectly defined, was yet confined to narrow limits. The addition of a bend, fess, border, or label, and the changing of the colours, were the first alterations that were made in the paternal coat, by the younger branches of a family. Again, the addition of some charge, from the arms of the mother, when of some powerful family, was a common way of showing the connexion with such family. And in seals we frequently find charges taken from the arms of some ancestor used as badges, surrounding the coat.

Had some decided system been fixed upon when heraldry first became hereditary, it would have been of the very first importance in historical and genealogical research. Even as it is, with what we know of the usual practice, there is sufficient method to enable us, from ancient Rolls, and undoubted authori-

ties, to fill up and connect what were hitherto uncertain descents; and also to identify historical personages with the families whose names they bore.

The system of differencing arms, which is in use at the present time, is open to many objections; for if acted up to, so as to be of real service to genealogy, in a few generations it would involve such confusion as no engraver or painter could make intelligible. It consists in giving to each son some peculiar mark on the paternal coat; these marks are, the label, crescent,



mullet, &c. for the first, second, third sons, &c. Following this system out, we shall have the great grandson, who is a younger son descended always from younger sons, bearing one of these charges upon another, and that again surmounted by a third, a confusion which entirely destroys the use of heraldry, as a distinguishing mark by which we may know the individual. This manner of differencing arms is said to be as old as Henry the Fourth. The arms of the six sons of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who died in the thirty-fourth of Edward the Third, are, or were, in the window of St. Mary's church, Warwick, each differenced after this manner. Even should the custom have commenced at this period, its antiquity must not shelter it from censure. It is very probable, however, that the coats above mentioned may have been put up at a later period.

Sir William Dugdale published a work in 1682, upon the

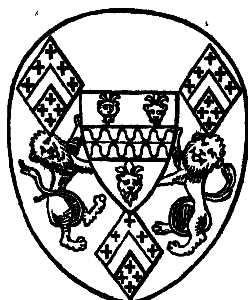
differences of arms, in which he strongly condemns the system now in use. After an exposition of the opinions of various writers, both French and English, and an account of methods in use at different periods, he says, "I do therefore smile at and despise these petty differences which now a day are used."

The collection of Differences of Arms by Robert Glover, before mentioned (Lansd. MS. 872), shows the variations in the arms of the different branches of about eighty families, and is a most excellent work as far as it goes, although it is but the groundwork of what might be done on this subject.

The assistance which heraldry has, and will continue to afford to the genealogist and historian is so great, that it is a matter of astonishment it has not had more attention paid to it on this account alone. That this may not seem a mere assertion, it will be as well that I should give a few instances in which heraldry has been of service in the manner I have stated.

Sir H. Nicolas, in his preface to the Roll of Edward the Second, gives an instance of an error in Dugdale, which he was led to clear up by the arms in the Roll. Dugdale states Robert la Ward, in the time of Edward the First, to have left a son, Simon. In the Roll of Edward the Second, there is a Robert la Ward, amongst the extinct barons, who bore vaire argent and sable, and a Simon la Ward, who bore azure a cross patée or. From the dissimilarity of the arms, Sir H. Nicolas tells us he was led to doubt the correctness of Dugdale's statement. Upon reference to the escheats, it appeared that Robert died, leaving two daughters his heirs. So that this Simon must have been of another branch, and not his son, as Dugdale states. The following is another instance in which heraldry enables us to correct a

doubtful passage in Dugdale. That author, in one part of his Baronage, makes Nicholas De Canteloup, who lived in the early part of Edward the Third's reign, to have married Joan, widow of Umfravile, Earl of Angos. But in another place he states Joan, the widow of William de Kyme, to have married afterwards Nicholas de Canteloup. The seal of Nicholas de Canteloup clears up this point.



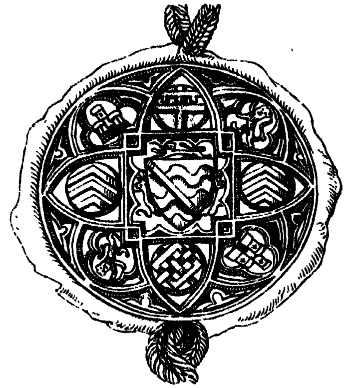
Seal of Nichol. de Canteloup, attached to a deed dated 32 Ed. iij. Harl. MS. 4757.

The father of the Nicholas above was William de Canteloup, living in the time of Edward the Second, and in all probability was the same William de Canteloup whose seal is attached to the Barons' letter to Pope Boniface VIII. in 1301[1]. The arms on both these seals are the same; and in the Roll of Edward the Second there is a William de Canteloup, to whom are assigned the same arms. In the same Roll, the arms of William de Kyme are given like those on the three escutcheons on the seal of Nicholas de Canteloup, and similar to those on the seal of Philip de Kyme attached to the Barons' letter to the Pope. (Both the father and grandfather of the William de Kyme above were named Philip.)

From Banks, we learn that William de Kyme died without issue; and Sir H. Nicolas, in his Synopsis of the Peerage, tells us that Nicholas de Cantiloup, above mentioned, was "lord of Greseley, jure uxoris." In all probability that lordship came to him from William de Kyme, as that is the only way in which we

[1] An account of the seals attached to this document, by Sir N. H. Nicolas, is printed in the Archæologia, vol. xxi.

can account for his bearing the arms of his wife's former husband on his seal.



The seal of Elizabeth, daughter of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and niece of Edward the Second, shows very clearly her marriages and family, and confirms the accounts we have of this lady. From various genealogies we find she married, first, John de Burgh, son of Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster. In the seal, the uppermost coat is that of Burgh, with a label, indicating, in all probability, that he was the eldest son, and married in the lifetime of his father, and also that he died before his father.

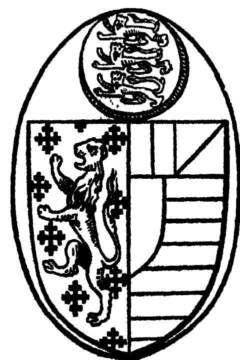
She married secondly, Theobald de Verdun. The arms on the lower plate are the same as those on the seal of Theobald de Verdun attached to the Barons' letter to the Pope, and similar to those assigned to Theobald de Verdun in the Roll of Edward the Second, in which time he lived. His father's name was Theobald, and in a Roll of Arms compiled in the latter end of Henry the Third's reign, there is a Theobald with the same coat, and in an earlier Roll of the same reign, the like arms are given to John de Verdone, which was the name of the father of this last Theobald.

She married thirdly, Roger d'Amori. The centre coat is the arms given to Roger d'Amori in the Roll of Edward the Second, and it would appear, from its position, that this was her seal at the time she was the wife of this Roger d'Amori. On either side are her own arms, three chevrons, the well known arms of Clare.

In the other compartments of the gothic tracery are alternately a lion and a castle, from the arms of Castile, in allusion to her descent from Eleanor of Castile, the wife of Edward the First, her grandmother.

Vincent makes this lady marry a fourth time, to a Baron of Fermoy, in Ireland; or as Hornby (in his curious letters on some mistakes in Dugdale) quaintly puts it, "shoeing this lady's horse round." Roger D'Amory was lord of Armoy, in Ireland, which might easily be corrupted into Fermoy.

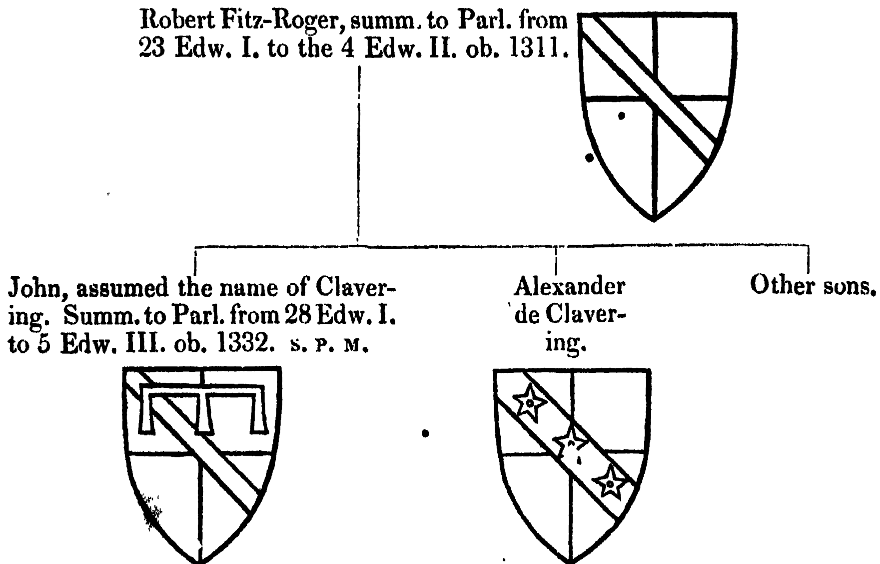
There is another seal (one of two attached to a deed of John Lord Bardolf, and Elizabeth, his wife, dated 13 Edward III.) very similar to the one above described. It is that of Elizabeth, the daughter of Roger D'Amory above, and his wife Elizabeth. In this the centre coat is that of Bardolf, she having married John Lord Bardolf, of Wyrmgay. This is surrounded by eight circular tablets; the four alternate ones have a lion and a castle alternately, as her mother's had; of the others, that on the left hand is Clare, her mother; on the right, D'Amory, her father; the lower one, Burgh.



Another instance where the genealogical account is confirmed by the arms, occurs in the seal of Beatrice de Breouse, attached to a deed dated 46 Edward the Third (see Harl. MS. 5805). The arms are those of Breouse (the same as are on his seal attached to the Barons' letter to the Pope, and like those found in the Roll of Edward the Third), impaling Mortimer; and above is a round tablet, with three lions passant guardant, which were the arms of Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, and son of Edward the First.

From Banks we learn that Beatrice, one of the daughters of the celebrated Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, was married first, to Edward, son and heir of Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk; and secondly, to Sir Thomas de Breouse.

The genealogical account of the connexion of the names of Fitz-Roger and Clavering, as given by Banks, Nicolas, &c. is confirmed by the Roll of Edward the Second. In the Roll we find Sir Robert Fitz-Roger, bearing quarterly or and gules a bend sable; and the next name that occurs is that of Sir John de Clavering, having the same arms as Fitz-Roger, with the addition of a label vert. Now Banks and others tell us that John, the eldest son of Robert Fitz-Roger, took the name of Clavering, from a manor in Essex. The Robert above had other sons, of whom one was named Alexander; now under the county Essex in the Roll, we see Alexander de Clavering bearing the same arms as Fitz-Roger, with the addition of mullets on the bend.



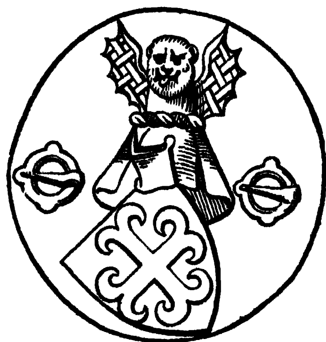
The identification of the Monsire de Molyns mentioned in the Roll of Edward the Third, with the Sir John de Molyns who was the favourite knight of William de Montagu, earl of Salisburie, is clear. (He is mentioned in a deed relating to some money matters between the King and the Earl of Salisburie, as "Dño. Joh. de Molyns milite suo.") His arms, as given in the Roll, are "de sable, une cheif des armes de Monsire William de Montagu, Counte de Sarum, d'argent trois fucelles gules."



Seal of Sir John de Molyns.

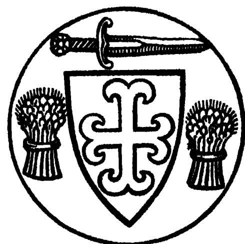
The same arms appear on his seal fixed to a deed dated "apud Lond. 19 Edw. III."

There is scarcely any limit to the corroborations thus afforded by heraldry to the genealogical accounts of families deduced from other sources. The instances given are, I think, sufficient to show its utility in these researches. One more example I may indulge myself with, as it is a pretty instance of reference to an older coat of the family, which the bearer may have looked back upon with some regret at its having been discarded. In the seal on the margin it will be observed that the wings of the crest are fretty, which was the bearing of the Willoughbies before they assumed the cross molin, on the marriage of Sir Robert[2] Willoughby, in the reign


Seal of Sir John de Willoughby, Knight, attached to a deed dated 13 Edw. iij. Harl. MS. 245.

[2] Dugdale and Banks call him William, but Collins and Nicolas call him Robert.

of Henry the Third, with the heiress of Bek of Eresby, whose coat it was. The seal also gives us a specimen of badges about the coat, in allusion to some family from which an acquisition of honour had been derived. The owner of the seal in question, Sir John de Willoughby, married one of the coheiresses of Sir Thomas Rocelyn, and the arms of Rocelyn were three buckles.



The seal in the margin is attached to a deed by which John de Bek gives the manor of Eresby to Robert de Willoughby, dated "donnés a Eresby l'an 30 du Roy Edward." (Harl. MS. 245, fol. 103.)

The garbs are probably derived from some lands of the Earl of Chester, as appears from the following deed in the same MS.

"Ranulfus comes Cestriæ et Lincoln, omnibus et saltm̃. Sciatis me dedisse Waltero Bek ꝑ homagio et servicio suo, partem illam Vallis quam habui in Milvedat de terra Hugonis de Warwic̃, &c. Testibus Willmõ de Cantelupo, Willmõ de Vernon, &c."

To this deed there is a seal of arms, viz. iij garbs, with the legend—"Secretum Ranulfi comitis Cestriæ et Lincoln."

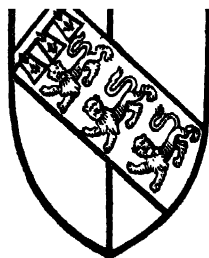
As a specimen of how the several branches of a family have been distinguished by differences of arms, I have selected a portion of the pedigree of the kings of France. The arms of the different families being well known, from their rank, there will be no necessity for my stating the authorities for them.

Another class of differences was that adopted to distinguish the illegitimate issue. It is not a little singular, considering the strictness of the domestic tie wherever the feudal system obtained —and which was indeed the very life of that system[3]—that

[3] Guizot.

illegitimacy was really held as being but little derogatory. Opinion and usage were in this respect at variance with the letter of the law. The stern eye of the law looking upon the bastard as belonging to no family, nor even to any nation[4]: recognized in him, consequently, no rights either of blood or inheritance; while the fact appears to have been, that in most countries of Europe the natural children of nobles were always reputed noble, they intermarried with the highest families, and in France we find them sharing that invidious privilege of the nobility, exemption from taxes to which the rest of the people were subject[5].

It appears also that bastards bore the arms of the paternal house, with certain *brizures*, or differences, and a few examples of these differences may be acceptable to the student of heraldry, the more so, as there is no printed authority (that I am aware of) to which he can refer for satisfactory information on the subject. The most common, though not perhaps the earliest of these marks, was the bâton sinister. In the arms of Arthur Plantagenet, Viscount Lisle, K. G. natural son of King Edward the Fourth, this bâton is azure, contrary to the general custom, which appears to have ruled that the bâton should be of gold or silver for the issue of the higher or princely nobility (by which is to be understood the whole of the peerage), and of any colour for inferior degrees of nobility.



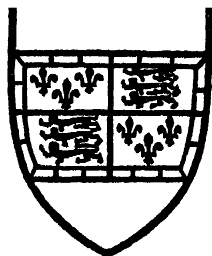
John de Beaufort, eldest natural son of John of Gaunt, bore for arms, per pale argent and azure; on a bend gules, three lions passant

[4] Geliot, Indice Armorial. [5] Ibid.

guardant in pale or: in the upper part of the bend a label azure, charged with nine fleurs-de-lis, or. But after the act 20 Richard the Second, by which the children of John of Gaunt by Katherine Swinford were legitimated, the above John de Beaufort bore the royal arms within a border gobonée argent and azure.

Thomas de Beaufort, second illegitimate son of John of Gaunt, bore the last mentioned coat, with the addition of a fleur-de-lis upon each of the blue divisions of the border. As the border gobonée was assumed by them (or assigned to them) after the act of legitimation, it is probable that such border was not at that period a mark of spurious descent, though it subsequently became so, at least in England; in France, the border gobonée has always been a common mark of cadency for the younger lawful children.

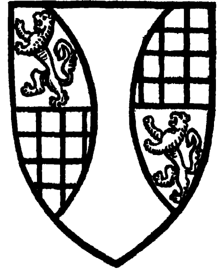
Charles Somerset, Earl of Worcester, natural son of Henry Beaufort, third Duke of Somerset, and from whom the present Duke of Beaufort is descended, bore his father's arms, with a silver bâton sinister. His eldest son, Henry, Earl of Worcester, discarded the bâton, preferring to place the arms of Beaufort upon a fess. It was a common practice in France for the natural son to bear the paternal arms upon a bend, fess, chevron, or chief, but instances are rare in English heraldry.



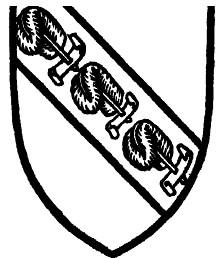
In the manuscript[6] from which the foregoing arms are taken, there occurs (amongst the illegitimates, and

[6] Lansdowne MS. 872, compiled by the celebrated Glover, Somerset Herald.

after the Beauforts) a shield, inscribed, "Radulphus de Arundel." On this shield the arms of the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel, are placed upon what appear to be two flanches, the space between being white. It is impossible to identify this person, but in a manuscript in the Cottonian Collection[7] there is the following note:—"The base sonne of a noblewoman, if he doe geve armes must geve upon the same a surcote . . . . . but unless you doe well marke such coate (you) may take it for a coate flanched." Now this gives us reason to suspect that the relationship of this "Radulphus" to the noble house of Arundel was through a female, and it is not unlikely that he was a son of Cardinal Beaufort by the Lady Alice, daughter of Richard Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, though historians mention a daughter only as the issue of that connexion.



Sir Roger de Clarendon, a natural son of the Black Prince, and ancestor, as it is said, of the Smijths of Hill Hall, bore, or, on a bend sable, three ostrich feathers, the pen fixed in a scroll, argent. The introduction here of the favourite cognizance of his illustrious sire is tasteful and significant.



Sir John de Clarence, natural son of Thomas, duke of Clarence, son of King Henry the Fourth, bore, per chevron gules and azure, in chief two

[7] Marked Tiberius E. VIII. There are further valuable remarks on this subject in this MS. but it has been so injured by fire as to be nearly illegible.

lions counter rampant guardant, and in base a fleur-de-lis or, evidently a composition from the royal arms of England.

In a manuscript in the Cottonian Library[8], amongst the knights dubbed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, occurs the name of "Sir John Stanley, bastarde," and the arms ascribed to him are, or, three eagles' legs erased gules; on a chief azure, three stags' heads caboshed of the field.

Three similar stags' heads on a bend form the well known coat of the Stanleys, earls of Derby, and an eagle's leg erased is an ancient badge of that noble family.

These examples will be sufficient to give the reader some idea of this mode of differencing.

With respect to the arms of ecclesiastics. Since the Reformation, they have been distinguished by marks of affiliation according to the modern method, if method it can be called, which is neither practicable nor intelligible. Previous to the Reformation, the priesthood used no *brizures*, or differences, for the good reason, we may suppose, that, as their armorial honours died with them, it was not thought necessary to make any distinction in a coat that could not be transmitted to posterity. This rule was not, however, without exception in England: William Courtenay, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1381 to 1396, son of Hugh, Earl of Devon, bore the arms of Courtenay with three silver mitres upon the label. His immediate successor in the see, Thomas Fitz Alan, son of Richard, Earl of Arundel, bore his father's arms with a border engrailed argent; Richard le Scrope, Archbishop of York from 1398 to 1405, bore the

[8] Marked Claudius C. III.

paternal coat with a border argent, charged with eight mitres gules; and there are a few more similar instances.

There remains one other species of brizures, of which it may be expected some notice should be taken; I allude to what are called "abatements of honour;" but it would be a mere waste of time to discuss their nature and intention, since the best authorities regard them as fictions. If the reader has any curiosity respecting the "abatements," he will find them carefully collected and fully described in "Gwillim's Display." Gwillim received them from G. Leigh, and other writers of that age, who, in their turn, discovered them most probably in the cave of Montesinos. Menestrier calls them "Sottises Anglaises," and we shall seek in vain for a more appropriate designation.

On Crests, Badges, etc.



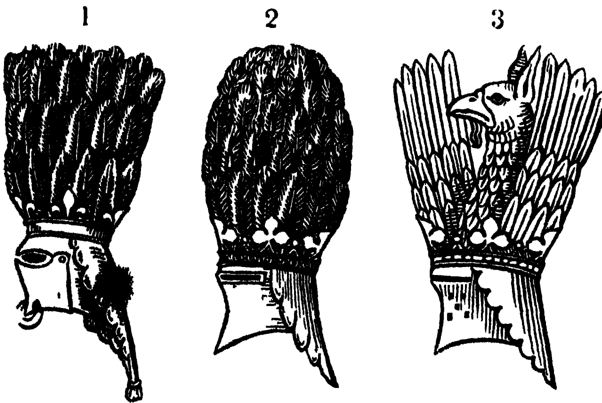
RESTS, badges, devices, and mottos form an interesting though neglected branch of heraldic inquiry. The three last named are often taken to mean the same thing; at least badges are confounded with devices, and devices with mottos, owing to the confused notions entertained upon the subject by writers on heraldry, who have not sufficiently attended to the distinction made between them in the time when their use generally prevailed. Again, badges have been confounded with crests; and though it may be difficult to point out much difference between them in respect to their form, still they must be held as distinct species of heraldic insignia, seeing that in early times they were not put to the same use, or displayed in the same manner.

The crest was essentially an ornament for the helmet, and though not so ancient as the badge, appears to have been a mark of great dignity and estate, more so, perhaps, than was implied by the mere right to bear arms. King Edward the Third, in the beginning of his reign, granted his own crest with much form to the Earl of Salisbury[1], with several manors where-

[1] There is a seal belonging to this earl extant, appended to a deed dated 11 Edward III. [Harl. Chart. 43 D. 26], which has the eagle thus granted to him. He

with to support its dignity. And this crest the earl afterwards conferred with equal ceremony upon his godson, Lionel of Antwerp, a concession which the king received very thankfully. See Appendix [c.]

Badges were a sort of subsidiary arms, used to commemorate family alliances, or some territorial rights or pretensions. Crests seem to have been purely personal, and to have been chosen mostly for the sake of the gracefulness of their form, or for their formidable and warlike aspect. Thus we see, upon the first introduction of crests, that immense plumes of ostrich or swan feathers, wings, griffons' and Saracens' heads predominated. Such were the crests of the Courteneys, the Mortimers, the



1. From the seal of Edward Courtney, Earl of Devon, 2 Hen. V.

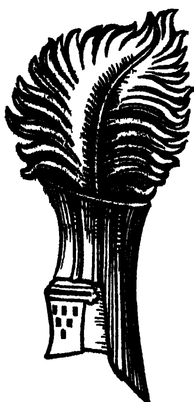
2. William le Scrope, from his seal, A. D. 1394.

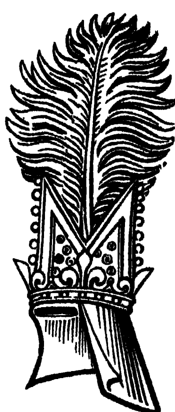
3. From the seal of Richard, Earl of Arundel, A. D. 1346.

Latimers, the Scropes, the Fitz-Alans, the Chandoses, and many others who were amongst the first to adopt them.

died about three years after the reconcession of the crest to his godson. From a seal to a deed dated 3 Richard II. [Harl. MS. 5805], it appears his son, the second Earl of Salisbury of this name, used the griffon's head and wings, similar to that of the Earl of Arundel, of which a cut is given (No. 3).

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5 

6 

4. Crest of Bouchier.

5. From the seal of William de Latimer, A. D. 1372.

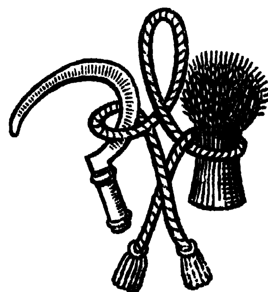
6. From the seal of Thomas de Hatfield, bishop of Durham, A. D. 1345.

In support of the distinction I have endeavoured to draw, examples will be found in the mode in which these heraldic ensigns were used by the descendants of Edward the Third. The same crest, the golden lion, upon a chapeau or cap of state crimson doubled with ermine, was borne by them all. We see it surmounting the helmet upon the seals of the several sons of this monarch, and upon the seals of their respective descendants, at the same time that all the different branches of this widely spread family, used different figures or combinations of figures, to which was then applied the term badge or bageon, and these badges had always allusion or reference to some hereditary pretensions or descent. The black dragon, with golden claws, and the black bull, badges of the house of York, were adopted in allusion to their descent (through the Mortimers) from the Burghs, Earls of Ulster, and from the Clares. The white hart of Richard the Second was most probably derived from the white 'nd of his mother, the fair maid of Kent. The antelope and

swan of the house of Lancaster had reference to the Bohuns. Of the origin of the red rose we are ignorant, but the white rose is said to have been derived from the "Castel of Clyfford" (Harl. MS. 304), as the white boar of Richard the Third was from the "Honor of Windsor" (Sandford). With these badges their robes of state, the caparisons of their horses, and the furniture of their houses were embellished, and their retainers were distinguished by having them embroidered upon the sleeve or other part of the garment; and though these badges appear also upon their seals, yet it is never upon the helmet that they are placed. When supporters came to be used, they were taken from the badge when this was an animate figure. The badge was generally represented upon a ground tinctured of the livery colours of the family. The colours of the early Plantagenets appear to have been white and red, of the house of Lancaster, white and blue; those of the house of York, murrey and blue; the Tudors, white and green. The same custom prevailed amongst less illustrious families. The Hungerfords used a garb gold, derived from the Peverels, whose arms were azure three garbs gold, William, Lord Hungerford having married the coheiress of that family in the reign of Henry the Fifth. Edward, Lord Hastings, who married the granddaughter and heiress of the Lord Hungerford beheaded 1463, bore on his standard (Harl. MS. 4632) the garb, with a sickle, another bad

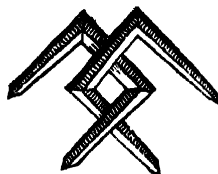


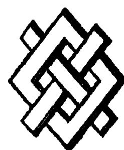
From Cotton MS. Julius, E. IV.



of the Hungerfords, united by a golden cord. On the seal of John de Willoughby of Eresby, appended to a deed dated 13 Edward III., two buckles are placed, one on each side of the shield, no doubt derived from his wife, the heiress of Roceline, whose arms were gules crusilé and three buckles argent.

The author of Regal Heraldry, in a paper contributed by him to the Collectanea Typographica, describes a monument in Mereworth Church, Kent, where the arms of Neville, Lord Bergavenny, are accompanied by two badges; that on the right side two staples interlaced, one gold, the other argent; and on the left, a frette gold; which last, he says, was derived from the Audleys, whose arms were gules fretty or. On the seal of William de Clinton, Lord of Allesley, appended to a deed dated the sixth of Edward the Third, the shield bears the arms of Clinton, and is surrounded by lions, evidently on account of the marriage of this Lord Clinton with Juliana the daughter and heiress of the last Lord Leiburne, whose arms were azure six lions argent. Abundance of similar examples might be adduced, were it necessary, to prove the ancient usage in respect of badges.

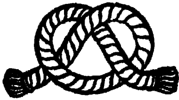


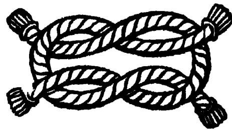


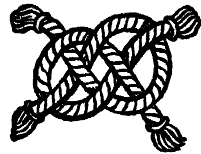


Though some ancient badges may have been subsequently borne as crests, yet it is evident upon the inspection of the earliest badges, that many of them were not at all calculated for

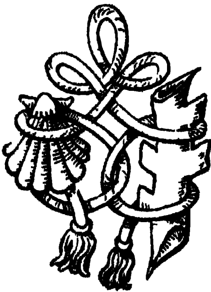
the tournament helmet, where a towering grace and splendour of effect appears to have been aimed at. For example, the buckles and staples just mentioned, the silk cords, entwined or knotted in a peculiar manner, which formed the badges of the Staffords,


Stafford's knot.

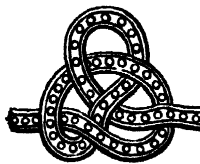

Bourchier.

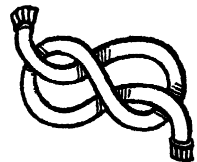

Wake and Ormond.

Bourchiers, Ormonds, and Wakes, the escallop and ragged staff of Dacre, the tuft of daisies of the Parres, &c. The knot of Queen Anne, wife of Richard the Second, King of England, is represented upon the mantle and kirtle of her monumental effigy in Westminster Abbey. Another form of knot ornamented the vestments of the knights of the "Noeud," or St. Esprit, instituted by Louis d'Anjou in 1352.


Dacre.


Parre.


Anne, wife of Rich. II


Order of the Noeud

It is not so easy to draw the line between the badge and the device; for the term device has been applied to the badge by some of our best heralds, it may be for want of a synonymous word, and to avoid repetition. Generally, however, it must b

understood that the device differs from the badge in this, that the device was not intended to preserve the memory of any great alliance, or to suggest any claim of blood, or possession, but was a sort of hieroglyphic, or "painted metaphor," as Dallaway calls it, assumed to represent some temporary sentiment of the possessor.

The device is generally accompanied by some short sentence or quotation, containing an allusion to it. This is the perfect device. Such was that of Francis the First, a salamander, with the words, "Jamais ne estaindra." Another was the human heart, with the inscription "Dieu et ma fiancée," used by the Lord Latimer in the reign of Henry the Eighth. The example in the margin, with the significant motto "Fast tho untied," is taken from Harl. MS. 5857, fol. 7, and is there inscribed "Sir Thomas Hennege knott." Of the same nature was the ancient and favourite mark of the house of Montmorency, a fixed star, with the single word "Aplanos" (απλανος), "without change or shadow of turning." This star, but without the word "aplanos," appears first upon the seal of Hervé de Montmorency in the year 1186! a proof of the great antiquity of this device.



The cut represents a device of one of the Medici family. It is taken from a medal engraved in Litta's "Famiglie Celebri di Italia." It is accompanied by the motto "Expliando Implicatur."



Mottos may be divided into two classes, the war cry, Cri de guerre, and the short sentence or epigraph, which (though met with on standards in the reign of Henry the

Eighth) had little relation to warlike affairs. Any one might use a motto, but none below the rank of banneret used a particular war-cry. The cry of the kings of France was "Montjoye St. Denis," which, according to Menestrier, meant the banner of St. Denis. Ashmole says, that the kings of England cried "Montjoye Notre Dame St. George," having the images of the Virgin and St. George upon their banners: the same author states that Edward the Third, in a skirmish near Calais, in 1349, had for his cry, "Ha! St. Edward! Ha! St. George!" In "Regal Heraldry," it is said that the same king, in a tournament held at Canterbury, in the same year, had a tunic and shield embroidered with the words,

"Hay! Hay! the wythe swan
By Godes soul I am thy man."

The Dukes of Burgundy cried "Montjoye St. Andrew." The Dukes of Bourbon, "Montjoye Notre Dame." An ancient cry of the Dukes of Normandy appears to have been "Dieu aye," or Dame Dieu-aye [Dieu aide]. The Dukes of Anjou, "St. Meurice." Menestrier gives a rather singular war cry of the Emperors of Germany, "A dextre et à sinistre," which he explains to be an exhortation to the soldiers to fight valiantly to the right and to the left, or, as we should now express it, "to hit right and left." The Counts of Flanders rallied their men with the cry "Au lion," alluding to the lion on the standard. The "cri" of the Bretons was "Mallou," which may have meant St. Mallo. The King of Scotland cried "St. Andrew." The war-cry of the Montmorencies is second to none in point of antiquity, "Dieayde au premier Chrétien." (The Montmorencies were styled first Christian Barons.) This war-cry is mentioned by a wr

in the year 1300 as then a matter of notoriety (see Du Chesne's History of the House of Montmorency). Their motto or device has been already noticed.

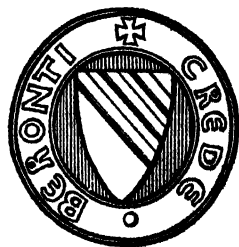
A device of the Counts of Savoy consists of four letters, F. E. R. T. and they are said to represent the first letters of the war-cry of Amedius, Count of Savoy, when he assisted the Knights of Rhodes against the Turks, "Frappez, Entrez, Rompez Tout;" an energetic exhortation, which reminds us of the harangue attributed to the Marshal Luxemburg when in Holland, in 1672, "Allez, mes enfans, pillez, volez, tuez, violez; s'il y a quelque chose de plus abominable, ne manquez pas de la faire."

Other cries were of a less truculent and more chivalrous character, as that of the Counts of Hainault, "Hainault the Noble;" of Milan, "Milan the Valiant." "A Douglas! A Douglas!" was a familiar sound to our Percies, Nevills, Cliffords, and Howards, whose estates lay on the borders.

In some cases the ancient war-cry became subsequently the motto of a family. One of the Counts of Chartres, in a combat between him and Richard the first Duke of Normandy, used as a war-cry "Passavant," a cry which became hereditary in the family, and many of his successors, the Counts of Champagne and Brie, bore on their seals the motto "Passavant le meillor."

It may be here remarked, that mottos upon ancient seals are of the greatest rarity. I have examined many hundred early seals, and engravings and drawings of seals preserved in the British Museum, and I know but of about half a dozen besides the one just given. One is of the year 1418, inscribed "Sigillum Jean de Juen," and contains the motto "Bien sur." Another is the year 1406, the inscription "S. Gui Seigneur de Moulac et

de Pestivien," and on a scroll passing behind the crest are the words "Bonne vie." A third is the seal of Oliver de Clisson, date 1407: this seal represents a very majestic figure, completely armed, holding a sword in the right hand, and on the left arm a shield charged with a lion crowned, the helmet is encircled by a coronet, and surmounted by two wings expanded; the ground of the seal is strewed with the letter M, and on a scroll passing behind the head is inscribed the words "Pour ce qu'il me plaist." The above seals are taken from Lobineau's Preuves de l'Histoire de Bretagne, vol. ii. Le Père Anselme, in his Hist. Généalogique, &c. mentions a seal of the date 1371, belonging to Jeane de Rostrenau Chastelaine de Kerméné Guingamp, on which is the motto "Si je puis." And another is a seal of Robert de Willoughby, drawn in Harl. MS. 245, by the celebrated Glover, the date is 7 of Henry VI.: it is inscribed with the motto "En bon espoire." In the same MS. there is a seal of Gilbert de Gaunt. A heater shield charged with three bars and a label of three points, inscribed "Sigillum Gilberti filii Gilberti de Gaunt," and has the words upon it, "Frange, lege, tage," but this is hardly a motto. Perhaps the very earliest example of a motto upon a seal, if indeed it be not the earliest instance of a motto anywhere, is afforded by a seal of one of the Byron family, Sir John de Byron, appended to a deed dated 21 Edward I. This seal represents a heater shield, charged with three bendlets enhanced, and inscribed, "Crede Beronti." A drawing of this seal has been preserved by one of the Randle Holmes, see MS. in the British Museum, marked Harl. MS. 2042. The words are remarkable, as



From Harl. MS. 2042.

motto of the present family is spelt "Crede Biron." "Espérance en Dieu," or simply "Espérance," the motto of the Percies, is also of very early date; as are the mottos used by different branches of the house of Grey, "De bon vouloir" and "A ma puissance." That of the Seymours is pleasing, "A l'ami fidel pour jamais." The family now use "Foy pour devoir:" this motto, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, was used by Thomas Howard, the second son of Thomas Howard, third Duke of Norfolk; his daughter Frances married Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford; it is probable that the Seymours have adopted it on this account. The Nevills now use the punning motto, "Ne vile velis," to the exclusion of their ancient ones, "Ou je tiens ferme," and "A tenir promesse vient de Noblesse." The mottos, "Devant si je puis," and "Autre que elle," belonging to the Scropes, are at least as old as the time of Henry the Fourth; and that of the Cornwall family, "Whyll lyff lastyth," is perhaps of the same date. The motto of the Staffords, Earls of Wiltshire, was "Humble et loyall," the same as that used by Margaret of Anjou, Queen of Henry the Sixth. Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, caused his motto, "Doresenavant," Henceforward, to be carved over the great gate of his house at Thornbury. After his attainder this sentence was determined to imply his future intention of seizing the crown.

In a manuscript in the Cottonian Collection, marked Vespasian F. XIII. is a slip of parchment, upon which is written

Souvente me Souvene
Harte Buckingham.

Just above this is the autograph of King Richard the Third, when Duke of Gloucester, and above his name he has written his motto:—

"Loyaulté me lie."
"Richard Gloucester."

The men of Scotland appear to have been short of speech when going into fight, neither indeed wasting many words upon peaceable occasions. Both their war-cries and mottos are generally laconic. The Slughorn, or cry of the Mackenzies, was "Tullochdar;" that of the Grants, "Craig Ellachie;" the Gordons, "Bydand[3]." The Hays cried, "Spare nought;" Innes, "Betraist." The motto of Dundas was, "Essayez;" of Home of Wedderburn, "Remember;" of Hamilton, "Through;" of Douglas, "Forward." A very ancient cry of one branch of the Kers, as I have learnt from a descendant of the family, was "Jedart's here." The motto of the Johnstones of Annandale was, "Light thieves all," originally the war-cry of the Johnston who was Warden of the Marches; the meaning of it was, Alight from your horses, and surrender; but used as a motto, as it subsequently was, it must have been liable to much misconception, and probably this accounts for its having been relinquished by the family, who now use the graver one, "Nunquam non paratus," which is perfectly unobjectionable.

[3] Bydand—biding, abiding.

Royal Badges.



HE badges which follow are those of our different Monarchs and some of their wives, from a period soon after the Conquest until the time of James the First, when the usage of them appears to have been discontinued. To prevent repetition, the principal authorities upon which they are given are these: Sandford's Genealogical History of the Kings of England; Willement's Regal Heraldry; Heraldic Notices of Canterbury Cathedral, by the same author; Dallaway's Heraldic Inquiries; and three papers on Ancient Standards in the Excerpta Historica. Several contemporary manuscripts have also been consulted, besides those cited in Regal Heraldry.

We have no conclusive evidence of any badge having been used before the time of Henry the First. Guillim indeed mentions (page 163, edit. 1779) a device of William Rufus, an eagle looking at the sun, with the word "Perfero;" and another of King Stephen, a plume of ostrich feathers, with the motto "Vi nulla invertitur ordo;" but he does not give his authority.

Henry the Second. This monarch used an escarbuncle of gold, an ancient mark of the house of Anjou, from which he was descended. He also introduced the broom, or planta-genesta, which was afterwards a favourite badge of most of his successors.

A gennet passing between two broom-stalks is also attributed to him.

Richard the First. The broom-pods appear upon the first seal of this king, as also a crescent, surmounted by a star. This latter device seems to have been used also by King John.

Henry the Third. The planta-genesta, or broom.

Edward the First. A rose, the stalk green, the petals gold.

Edward the Second. A golden tower, in allusion to his maternal descent from the royal house of Castile.

Edward the Third. The favourite cognizance of this monarch appears to have been "sunbeams, issuing from clouds." King Henry the Eighth caused this to be represented upon the habits of the Knights of the Garter, in memory of Edward, the founder of the order.

Richard the Second. The badge of Richard the Second was a white hart, derived from the white hind, the cognizance of his mother, the fair maid of Kent. Willement, in his Regal Heraldry, quotes from Hollingshed the following characteristic anecdote:—"Among the few friends who attended this unfortunate prince (Richard the Second) after his capture by the Earl of Northumberland, was Jenico d'Artois, a Gascoigne, that still wore the cognizance or device of his master, King Richard; that is to say, a white hart; and would put it away from him neither by persuasion nor threats; by reason whereof, when the Duke of Lancaster understood it, he caused him to be committed to prison, within the castle of Chester. This man wa



the last (as saith mine author) which ware that device, which showed well thereby his constant heart towards his master."

King Richard the Second sometimes used a white falcon as a device. At a tournament held at Windsor, a short time previous to his departure for Ireland, forty knights and forty esquires were apparelled in green, with a white falcon. The wood cuts represent other badges of this monarch. The "rays" and the "branch of genesta" are, with the "hart" already mentioned, on the mantle and kirtle of the monumental effigy of King Richard the Second in Westminster Abbey. The "ostrich" and the "knot" are from the monumental effigy of Anne, queen of Richard the Second. For these five badges I am indebted to the author of "Regal Heraldry."



Henry the Fourth.—House of Lancaster. A silver swan was the principal device of this king, derived from the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford, of which family his first wife was the daughter and coheiress. Another of his badges, a white antelope, had probably a reference to his connexion with that noble house. Another badge ascribed to him is a fox's tail. This device was derived, I have no doubt, from his maternal ancestors of the house of

Lancaster, for in a manuscript (pen. auct.) entitled Arms of the Founders of the Order of the Garter, there is a representation of a badge of Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster, a square tablet, divided into two equal parts by a perpendicular line, and coloured white and blue: on the first, or white compartment, is a red rose; and on the other, the blue, appears a fox's brush, painted in its proper colours. The double SS is another badge of this king, the origin of which has baffled all antiquarian research. The device of his second wife, Joane, daughter of Charles the Second, King of Navarre, is said to be an ermine, collared and chained, with the motto "A temperance."

Henry the Fifth. Before his accession to the throne he used the silver swan; afterwards the fire-beacon appears to have been his cognizance. Over his tomb in Westminster Abbey is a representation of an antelope and a swan, chained to a beacon.

Henry the Sixth. A device of this king was a panther; another ascribed to him is two ostrich feathers in saltire, one silver, the other gold. The ostrich feather was a favourite badge of the descendants of Edward the Third; sometimes three, sometimes one, being borne. The well known story which would refer its origin to an adventure of the Black Prince at the battle of Cressie, is not supported by good evidence. Some have ascribed the device to Edward the Third; the ostrich feathers were certainly adopted by most of his descendants. John of Ghent and Thomas, Duke of Gloucester, bore them, as well as the Black Prince. It was the badge of Edward, Duke of York, and Richard, Earl of Cambridge, as it was also of Henry the Fourth and all his sons. (See some good remarks on the ostrich feathers in Willement's Notices of Canterbury Cathedral).

The pen of the feather appears generally fixed in a scroll; the coronet was added by Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward the Sixth.

The device of Margaret of Anjou, queen of Henry the Sixth, was a daisy, in allusion to her name :—

> The daise a floure white and rede,
> In French called la belle Margarete.—*Chaucer.*

Her motto was "Humble et loiall."

Edward the Fourth.—House of York. This prince used as a cognizance a black bull, the horns and hoofs of gold. This had been an ancient badge of the house of Clare or Clarence, from which he was descended by the female side; also a black dragon, with gold claws, derived from the Burghs. [See Appendix E.] But his favourite device was a white rose "en soleil," or surrounded with the rays of the sun. In the opening lines of Shakespeare's play of Richard the Third, allusion is made to King Edward the Fourth, from his cognizance :—

> "Made glorious summer by this sun of York."

Such references are frequent in old writers.

Richard the Third. Shakespeare has made this monarch's cognizance, the boar, familiar to every one: "the bloody and usurping boar." This device was of silver, with the tusks and bristles of gold. At his coronation thirteen thousand "boars" were provided, "made and wrought upon fustian." The badge of his queen, Anne Neville, was a white bear, collared, chained, nd muzzled, gold; an ancient mark of the house of Warwick. d to be derived from Urso d'Abitot.

Henry the Seventh.—House of Tudor. His cognizance was a red dragon, called the Dragon of Cadwallador. It is usually found (in illuminations) represented upon a ground of white and green, the livery colours of the house of Tudor. A portcullis of gold was a favourite device of Henry the Seventh, derived from the Beauforts. The Tudor rose, composed from the roses of York and Lancaster, was divided by two lines passing through the centre, and crossing each other at right angles, and was coloured white and red. This badge is briefly described in heraldic language, as a rose quarterly argent and gules. Sometimes, however, it was formed of two series of petals, the inner white, and the outer red. The white greyhound, which with the dragon were the supporters of his shield, was derived through his wife from the Nevilles.

Henry the Eighth. Besides the red dragon, this monarch is said to have given, as his badge, a cock silver, combed and wattled red.

We are told (Harl. MS. 304) that a cock is a badge of Wales. The cock is known to have been an ancient device of the French, or rather the Gauls. There appears a connexion between the ancient name of France, Gallia, and the Latin word Gallus; and what is not a little curious, the name Gallia is derived (by Voltaire) from Walch or Welche, which is said to have been the original name of Gaul. The native appellation of Circassia is said, by a late intelligent traveller, to be the same as the name for the cock in their language, and that this bird is their national ensign.

Wives of Henry the Eighth.—Catherine of Arragon. Th pomegranate; also a sheaf of arrows, silver. Her daught

afterwards Queen Mary, used this latter badge, united with the Tudor rose, the arrows being placed upon a ground of green and blue.

Ann Bullen. Her cognizance was a silver falcon.

Jane Seymour. A phœnix. This has since been used by the family of Seymour as their crest.

Anne of Cleves. A black lion, with an escarbuncle of gold upon the shoulder, appears to have been the device of this queen. It was composed from the arms of Cleves, and those of her mother, Mary, daughter and heir of William, Duke of Juliers. Her "poesie" (inscribed upon her wedding ring) was, "God send me well to kepe."

Catherine Howard. No device of this queen appears to have been preserved.

Catherine Parr. Her device was a maiden's head issuing from the centre of a Tudor rose. A maiden's head was the cognizance of the family of Parre, and came from the family of Ros of Kendal.

Edward the Sixth. The sun shining. His badge when Prince of Wales has already been described.

Mary. The cognizance of this queen has been mentioned; see Catherine of Arragon.

Elizabeth. The principal cognizance of Queen Elizabeth was a silver falcon, as her mother's; but she used a great number of "impresses," as they were called, emblematical devices of merely personal import.

James the First used as a badge the dexter half of the Tudor ·e joined to the sinister half of the thistle; the whole ensigned ı the royal crown. [See Appendix F.]

Appendix.

Appendix.

A.

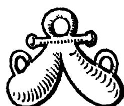
WHEN the heiress of the Percies married (in the reign of Henry the Second) Josceline de Louvaine, a son of the reigning sovereign of Brabant, it was upon condition of his changing either his name or arms. He relinquished his name, but retained his arms, which have ever since been the bearing of the noble house of Percy.

Arms were sometimes made a matter of testamentary bequest, with all legal formality and verbosity; as may be seen by a deed printed in Naylor's Gloucestershire Families. They were also transferred by deed of gift, as may be seen by the following deed in Harl. MS. 1179.

"To all them which shall see or heare this present tre. Thomas Grendall, of Fenton, cousin and heyre to John Beaumeys, sometime of Sawtrey, greeting. As the arms of the auncestors of the saide John Beaumeys, since the day of his death, by lawe and right of inheritance are escheated unto mee as the next heyre of his linage, Know yee that I y^e^ aforesaide Thomas have given and graunted by these presents the whole armes aforesaide, with their appurtenances, unto Sir William Moigne, knight, which armes are, Argent on a cross azure five garbes or. To have and to hold the saide armes with their appurtenances to the saide Sir William and his heyres and assignes for ever. In witness whereof I have to these present letters set my seale. Given at Sawtrey the 22 day of November in y^e^ 15 yeare of King Richard y^e^ Second."

B.

THE annexed cut is copied from the seal of Agatha Trusbut. She was one of three coheiresses. Her sister Rose married Everard de Roos, to whose family the lands of Trusbut eventually descended. This would appear to be the origin of the water-bougets in the arms of Roos.



It has been suggested to the writer that the arms of Trusbut (three water bougets) are what is called canting heraldry; that is, they contain an allusion or pun upon the name "Très boutz." Supposing there is this connexion between the name and arms, it is equally likely, I think, that the surname was taken from the coat.

C.

MS. Lansdown. Mus. Brit. No. 874, fol. 14.

THE King to all to whom, &c. greeting. Know ye that whereas we lately considering the strict probity of our beloved and trusty William de Montacute, Earl of Sarum and Marshal of England, granted to him a crest of an eagle, &c. and that he might the more decently preserve the honour of the said crest, we granted to him for us and our heirs that the manors of Wodeton, Frome, Whitfeld, Mershwode, Worth, and Pole, with appurtenances, which came to our hands by the forfeiture of John Mautravers, and which Robert Fitz-Payn holds for his life by our grant, and which, after the death of the said Robert, ought to revert to us and our heirs, should remain to the said earl and his heirs for ever in manner as in our letters patent[1] thereupon made is more fully contained. And now the said earl hath, at our request, of his great affection, granted to Lionel, our most dear son, to whom the said earl stood godfather, the said crest to be by

[1] The deed alluded to above bears date the 9th Edw. III.

him borne to our honour and remembrance. We, considering the acceptable condescension of the said earl, and willing that since he hath deserved thanks no less should ensue, have granted to the said earl for us and our heirs, that the said manors of Wodeston, Frome, Whitfeld, Mershwode, Worth, and Pole, with the appurtenances, shall, after the death of the said Robert, remain to the aforesaid earl to have and to hold to him and his heirs of us and our heirs of the chief lords of the fee by the services therefore due and accustomed for ever. Notwithstanding that the said earl hath surrendered to our aforesaid son the crest aforesaid. In witness, &c. Witness the king at Kyenraynge the 10th day of September in the 13th year of our reign. By the King himself.

D.

WITH regard to Supporters, of which little mention has been made, and as to who are entitled to use them, I cannot offer any better observations than those contained in MSS. Wingfield, York Herald, Coll. Arm. Lond. and printed in Dallaway's "Inquiry," &c.

"Anciently there was noe written precedent for ordering the bearing of supporters, nor for limiting them to the major nobilitie. The ancientest memorials are those inscribed in the old seals of many families, both peers, knights, and esquires, which is conceived among knights to mean knights bannerets, in the rest official dignities. The moderne use of them is now chiefly in the greater nobility, and knights of the garter, or persons that were of the privy council, or had some command whereby they had the title of lord prefixed to their style, as Lord Deputy of Ireland, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Lord President, Counsellors of the North or Marches of Wales, or Lord Warden of the Stanneries. That the peers of the realm did and might bear them, is not the question. That others under the degree of peers in parliament did bear them, and by what reason or right, and how the precedent of their ancestors bearing supporters may justify the use of them in lineal heirs, is the question. It is confessed there is little or nothing in precedent to direct the use of supporters. I suppose, since

custom and practice hath reduced the use of bearing supporters to the major nobility, no inferior degree may now assume them, nor may Garter assign them to the lesser nobility. But these families, whose ancestors have used supporters, whose monuments are accomplished with them, whose houses are adorned with them, and whose pious foundations continue them, the churches, chapels, and religious places whereof they were patrons, founders, and benefactors, that render memorials of them, have such possessary right unto them, that they cannot be suppressed or alienated, but may safely and justly continue.

" It will not be impertinent for proof and illustration of this subject to set forth some few precedents of this nature, collected out of many that are observable in every shire.

Sir Henry de Redford, bailiff of Alençon in France, under the Duke of York.

Richard Courson, captain of Harfleur in Normandy, 24 Hen. VI.

John Stanlow, Esquire, then of Normandy.

John Norris, of Bray, com. Berks, 1 Edw. IV.

The ancestors of the Earl of Bath used the same supporters before they were peers as they have done since that dignity.

Sir Simon Burley, Knight of the Garter, bore two greyhounds as supporters, proved by his seal, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

The Cheneys of Kent, as the same.

The Guildfords, as the same.

Sir Thomas Moyle, Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations, temp. Hen. VIII. used supporters, which at this day remain upon his hall door.

An ancestor of the Earl of Essex, Marshal of Ireland, 50 Edw. III. which his successors being peers continued.

Thomas Hoo, Esquire, temp. Edw. IV. used the same supporters before as after he was created a peer, and his brother Theodosius Hoo, as appears from a seal penes Peter le Neve Norroy.

Sir Walter Raleigh, as Lord Warden of the Stanneries.

Sir H. Lee, Knight of the Garter.

Sir John Gage, Comptroller of the Household, temp. Q. Mary.
Sir Amias Powlett, of Hinton St. George, temp. Q. Eliz.

" Divers whose ancestors used supporters, who were never called to parliament, whose descendants have still continued the same :—

Heavingham	Suffolk	Hilton	
Stawell	Somerset	Houghton	
Lutterell	Somerset	Heskett	
Wallop	Hants	Gardiner	
Popham	Hants	Chudleigh	
Covert	Sussex	Balfour	
Savage	Cheshire	Napier	
Porter	Cheshire	Vaughan	
Pierpoynt	Notts	Hele	Devon
Sherard	Leicestershire	Pomeroy	Devon
Paston	Norfolk	Baynard	Wilts
Carew	Surrey	Shireborne	Lancaster
St. Leger	Kent	Foljambe	Derby

The above list from the MS. is anything but perfect ; many others might be added, as :—

Gregory, of Styvichall, com. Warw.
Stapleton, com. York.

And also the following, from seals which have come under my notice :—

Sir Henry Bromflete, 12 Hen. VI.
Sir Richard Spalding.
Sir Henry Redford, under the Duke of York, gov. of France.
Sir John de Bourchier, 13 Rich. II.
Sir Hugo de Stafford.
Sir Lancelotte de Lisle.
Sir John Devereux, 50 Edw. III.

E.

IN Sandford, ed. 1677, pages 381, 382, we find :—" Edw. IV. The white lion is depicted in the window of a dining-room of Dr. Durel, one of the Prebends of his Majesty's Chappel Royal in Windsor Castle; over this is a scrole thus inscribed, ' Ex comitatu de Marche.' There is also painted a faulcon argent within a fetter-lock closed or, superscribed ' Ex ducatu de York ;' and in the same window, a dragon sedant sable corned or, with this inscription, ' Ex comitatu de Ulster,' which King Edward used to shew his descent from the Burghs, Earls of Ulster, whose cognizance was this dragon."

F.

A CURIOUS and appropriate use of royal badges was that of naming the vessels of the navy by them. There is a large folio book on vellum in the Pepysian Library in Magdalen College, Cambridge, written by Pepys himself, who was secretary to the Admiralty in the time of Charles the Second, of which the title runs as follows:—

" A Declaration of the Royal Navy of England, composed by Anthony Anthony, one of the Officers of the Ordinance, and by him presented to King Henry VIII. anno Regni xxxviii, Dñi. 1546. In three parchment Rolls, containing, viz. :—

Roll { 1st. Shyppes
2nd. Galliasses
3rd. { Pynasses and Roo-Bargys }

" Whereof y^e 1st and 3rd were given me, anno 1680, by my royal Master King Charles II. and y^e other (since found) is resting, anno 1690, in y^e Royal Library at St. James."

In this volume a representation is given of each ship of the navy at the time it was compiled, with minute particulars of their burthen, comple of men, weight of metal, &c. They are all of them decorated with f generally the red cross of England, and Barry argent and vert (the c

of the house of Tudor). Sometimes in the "shyppes" we have, Blue with the cipher HR. in gold, and, Blue a fleur-de-lys gold; occasionally France and England quarterly. But I should imagine, from the heraldic part of the drawings, that Pepys, or whoever it was that made the designs, was little conversant with heraldry.

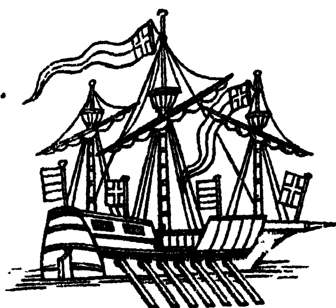
The first roll of "shyppes" contains twenty, and they are generally named after historical persons of the period.

The second roll, of "galliasses," has fifteen, amongst which are the "Harte," "Antelop," "Tegar," "Greyhound," "Jennet," "Lyon," "Dragon."

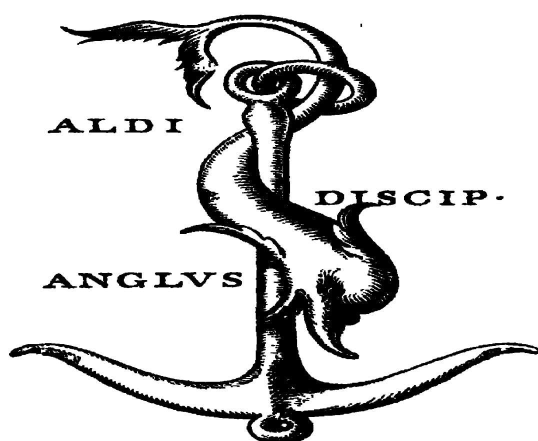
The third roll contains thirteen "Roo-Barges," and ten "Pynasses," of which the following fourteen are certainly named after royal badges:—

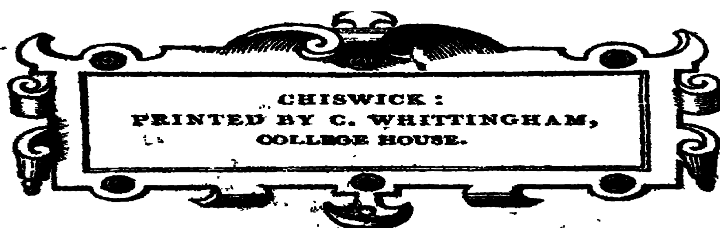
Cloude-in-the-sonne	Portquillice
Double rose	Rose in the sonne
Fawcon-in-the-fetterlock	Rose slype
Flowre de luce	Sonne
Harpe	The ostrydge fethers
Hawthorne	Fawcon
Mayden Hede	Hynde.

It is very probable that these badges formed the figure-head of the vessels, as is the present custom, or were painted in some conspicuous place; and the Jack Tar of the day may have been as much attached to his saucy "Fawcon in the Fetterlock" as the Blue Jacket of modern times to his "Arethusa."



"The Fawcon in the Fetterlock Roo-Bargys," of twenty tons, forty-one mariners, and four gunners, from MSS. in Pepysian Lib. Magd. Coll. Camb.


ALDI
DISCIP·
ANGLVS


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